PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SUB-COMMITTEE,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

BENGAL, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH, PANJAB,
BOMBAY, MADRAS, CENTRAL PROVINCES,
ASSAM AND BERAR.

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Central Provinces, Assam, Berar } No sittings held.

* Unable to attend.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE SUB-COMMITTEE,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

BENGAL.

Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

The staff of the Registration Department of Bengal consists of an Inspector General, two Inspectors, one Registrar (for the town of Calcutta), twenty-two Special Sub-Registrars and two hundred and forty-one Rural Sub-Registrars. There are also twenty-six officers belonging generally to the Subordinate Executive Service who are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars.

The Inspector General receives a salary of ₹1,500 rising to ₹1,800, which, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, is hereafter to be fixed at ₹1,500 without increment. Hitherto the appointment has always been held by a member of the Covenanted Civil Service. The Inspector General considers that inasmuch as the incumbent is, as far as registration is concerned, superior to District Officers, the post should be reserved for members of the Covenanted Civil Service in future. The Lieutenant-Governor expresses himself as not sure that it is indispensable that the Inspector General of Registration should be a member of the Covenanted Civil Service. His Honour is of opinion that the question of giving the appointment hereafter to a selected Uncovenanted officer on a salary of ₹1,000 seems to deserve consideration, and that there being a paucity of men in the regular staff of Civilians in Bengal, the policy of Government should be to confine them more and more to appointments for which their services are absolutely necessary.

The Inspectors have hitherto received salaries of ₹1,000 and ₹700 respectively, and up to 1873 were generally Covenanted Civilians. Since that date one of the incumbents has been an Uncovenanted officer, and both the present incumbents are members of the Uncovenanted Service, the senior officer being a Hindu and the junior a European. The salaries, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, are to be reduced to ₹700 and ₹500 respectively; but as regards the present holders of the appointments it has been decided to allow them to draw ₹800 and ₹600 per mensem respectively.

The Registrar who is stationed at Calcutta receives a salary of ₹600, but the next incumbent will receive ₹400 only. The office is at present held by a Hindu.

Of the Special Sub-Registrars, one, the survivor of a grade of officers originally established in 1866, receives ₹200 a month. The present incumbent is a Native Christian.

Nine Special Sub-Registrars receive a salary of ₹100, and an average commission of ₹115 monthly. Of these, six are Hindus, two are Mahomedans, and one is a Native Christian.

Twelve Special Sub-Registrars receive salaries of ₹75 with an average commission of ₹112 monthly. Of these five are Hindus and seven Mahomedans.

Of the two hundred and forty-one Rural Sub-Registrars paid by commission contingent on the number of deeds registered by them in each month, which ranges from ₹40 to ₹150, one hundred and forty-four are Hindus, ninety-six are Mahomedans, and one is a Eurasian.

The duties of the Inspector General are to supervise the Department, to correspond with all District Officers who are *ex-officio* Registrars, and, if possible, to inspect every sadar office yearly. He is also the senior Marriage Registrar of Calcutta; has charge of Book Registration and Census work; supervises the registration of Mahomedan marriages and divorces, and is about to be placed in charge of the registration of births and deaths throughout the country. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, observes that the last-mentioned duty has reference to voluntary registration under Act VI of 1886, and that the increase of work caused by it will be very slight.

The duty of the Inspectors, as their title implies, is to inspect the various Registration offices throughout the Province in the course of the year, and by the rules of the Department they are required to spend three hundred days in each year on tour.

The Magistrate of the District as *ex-officio* Registrar inspects the offices in his district.

The Special Sub-Registrars are appointed to the head-quarters of districts where the Registration work is very heavy or the number of subordinate officers to be supervised is large. In other districts one of the district staff is entrusted with the duties of special Sub-Registrar, receiving a small commission in addition to his ordinary salary.

The Special Sub-Registrar, or the *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar, besides carrying on his own work as Registering officer at the Sadar Station, has also to visit and inspect every rural office in

the district; those in the sadar sub-division once every quarter, and those in other sub-divisions once every half-year.

The Inspector General and the Inspectors are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, as are also the Registrar of Calcutta and all Special Sub-Registrars, but generally upon the nomination of the Inspector General, and always after consultation with him.

Rural Sub-Registrars are usually appointed on the nomination of the District Officer; but if the selection is thought unsuitable or there is no local candidate, the appointment is made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the nomination of the Inspector General.

The service of the Rural Sub-Registrars does not entitle them to pension or furlough, though they may be granted leave without pay. The ordinary pension and leave rules of the Covenanted or Uncovenanted Services are enjoyed by the other officers of the Department.

The qualifications of Rural Sub-Registrars are, in the Inspector General's opinion, honesty, respectable social position, intelligence and fair business capacity. A knowledge of English is insisted on only in the case of officers who hold the larger and more important offices, and, as a matter of fact, about one-third of the Rural Sub-Registrars do not know enough English to enable them to carry on their duties in that language. A knowledge of the Registration and Stamp Acts is also necessary to enable them to discharge their functions.

For Special Sub-Registrars the same qualifications are required in a higher degree, as also for the Inspectors, who must, besides, possess good physique, energy and activity.

The Inspector General reports that so arduous are the duties of these officers in Bengal that in a period of ten years two European Inspecting officers have been invalided, two Natives have resigned their appointments from ill-health, and a third is now going on sick leave; and he proposes that these officers should not retain their appointments for more than two or three years. Sir Steuart Bayley considers that three years' incumbency would be quite long enough, as their work is very harassing and monotonous and necessitates incessant travelling. The Inspectors interchange their divisions of the Province annually. The Inspector General is of opinion, and the Lieutenant-Governor approves his view, that one Inspector should always be a European and the other a Native.

The Inspector General reports that the Rural Sub-Registrars are appointed principally from two classes of the community, namely, the local gentry and the clerical classes. When the Department commenced its operations at small rural centres it was proposed that the services of local country gentlemen should be enlisted; but it was found that men of this class were not everywhere available, and, if available, were not always sufficiently intelligent or sufficiently familiar with the conduct of business to make good Rural Sub-Registrars. Consequently, a large number of these officers were recruited from the Amlah of the District offices, who have usually proved efficient Sub-Registrars. In addition to members of these classes other persons have been appointed for special reasons at the instance of the Government, the Inspector General, and of District Officers, and of these many are not inefficient officers.

Although the number of cases of fraud brought to light are not numerous as compared with the total number of deeds registered, a considerable increase is shown in the number detected in the last of the three years for which a return has been furnished to the Sub-Committee. This may be due to greater care in reporting; but, if unexplained, it cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

The Inspector General shows that the Mahomedans have, relatively to their numbers, a larger share of the appointments in this Department than the Hindus. He mentions that two or three years ago the Lieutenant-Governor passed an order that in each Sub-district the Sub-Registrars should be of same religion as the majority of population; but that great difficulty has been found in carrying out this order, because the districts where Mahomedans predominate numerically are those where they are least educated, and where good Hindu candidates are most easily available; and because, on the other hand, in Behar, where there is no lack of respectable and educated Mahomedan candidates, the mass of the population is so largely Hindu that if the rule were adhered to, Mahomedan candidates could not be employed.

Babu Hari Chaitanya Ghose, Officiating First Inspector of Registration, was examined by the Sub-Committee. He stated that in his opinion registration is efficiently carried out in accordance with law in the Province of Bengal, and that the officers engaged by the Department are, as a rule, trustworthy. He observed that the inspections are so frequent that an inefficient or negligent officer is soon detected; that the selections of Sub-Registrars are maed with great care, and that both the class of landed gentry and the clerical class discharged their duties with equal efficiency, while Mahomedans, being picked men, are not inferior to the Hindu officers in the Department. He saw no reason for making any race distinction in the selection of officers for the Inspectorships. He stated that he had not considered whether the Inspector Generalship might be held by a Native; but inasmuch as a great deal of patronage attached to the office, the motives of the incumbent in exercising it would be less exposed to suspicion if the officer is a European.

Mr. Henry Blunt Beames, Officiating Second Inspector of Registration, gave evidence to much the same effect.

The average net surplus of the Registration Department in Bengal in the years 1883-84, 1884-85 and 1885-86 was R4,41,581; but the figures furnished to the Sub-Committee do not show whether any deduction has been made for the rent of offices and the pensions and furlough allowances of such officers as are entitled to draw them.

BENGAL.

Registration.

Section II.—Information supplied by the Bengal Government.

In compliance with the request made by the Secretary to the Public Service Commission in his letter No. 143, dated the 16th March last, I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a Note by the Inspector General of Registration, Bengal, and of its enclosures, on the subject of the organization and constitution of the Registration Department of this Province.

2. Besides the officers mentioned in paragraph 1 of Mr. Bourdillon's Note, there are 26 other officers belonging generally to the Subordinate Executive Service, who are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars. For the registration work performed by them they are allowed commission at the rate of 25 per cent. on the fees realized, but the amount of the commission of each officer is not to exceed Rs. 100 a month.

3. With reference to paragraph 2 of Mr. Bourdillon's Note, I am to say that the salary of the Inspector General of Registration in this Province was in 1870 fixed at Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 1,800 a month. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, recently appointed by the Government of India, this Government has reduced the pay of the appointment to a fixed salary, without increment, of Rs. 1,500 a month, and has appointed Mr. W. D. Blyth, C.S., on that pay. I am also to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor does not feel sure that it is indispensable that the Inspector General of Registration should be a member of the Covenanted Civil Service. The question of giving the appointment hereafter to a selected Uncovenanted officer on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per mensem seems, therefore, to deserve consideration. There is such a paucity of men in the regular staff of Civilians in Bengal that the policy of Government should be to confine them more and more to appointments for which their services are absolutely necessary.

4. Referring to paragraph 3 of Mr. Bourdillon's Note, I am to state that the pay of the First and Second Inspectors of Registration Offices will in future be reduced from Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 700 to Rs. 700 and Rs. 500 per mensem, respectively; but as regards the present holders of these appointments, it has been decided to allow them to draw Rs. 800 and Rs. 600, respectively, per mensem. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs in the opinion expressed by Mr. Bourdillon, in paragraph 17 of his Note, that one of the two Inspectors should be a European and the other a Native of India. As regards the suggestion that these officers should not hold their appointments for more than two or three years, I am to say that Sir Steuart Bayley considers that three years' incumbency would be quite long enough for them, as their work is very harassing and monotonous, and necessitates incessant travelling. He would, therefore, limit the tenure of their offices to three years.

5. I am to add that the registration of births and deaths, alluded to in paragraph 7 of Mr. Bourdillon's Note, which is about to form a portion of the work of the Inspector General of Registration, refers to voluntary registration under Act VI of 1886, and that the increase of work caused by it will be very slight.

Note by the Departmental Member.

The existing organization and constitution of the Department.

1. The Registration Department in Bengal consists at present of one Inspector General, two Inspectors of Registration Offices, 22 Special Sub-Registrars, and 241 Rural Sub-Registrars, besides the Registrar of Calcutta and the District Officers, each of whom is *ex-officio* Registrar for his own district.

2. The Inspector General is paid Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 1,800, but the next incumbent is to receive Rs. 1,500 only. This appointment has always been one of those reserved for the Covenanted Civil Service, and as it is one the incumbent of which is, so far as registration goes, superior to District Officers, it is obviously desirable that no change should be made in this respect.

3. The Inspectors are paid Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 700, and these appointments were for a long time, *viz.*, up till 1873, nearly always filled by Covenanted Civilians. Since that date one of the incumbents has been an Uncovenanted officer. At present, and for some time past, both the actual working incumbents have belonged to the Uncovenanted Service, one being an European and the other a Native officer. The pay will now be reduced to Rs. 700 and Rs. 500.

4. Of the Special Sub-Registrars, one is paid Rs. 200 a month, being the only survivor of a grade of officers on this pay which was originally established in 1866. Of the remainder, all receive salary, plus commission on the number of deeds registered; the salary being either Rs. 75 or Rs. 100 per mensem, according to the number of subordinate offices to be supervised. There are 9 officers on Rs. 100 and 12 on Rs. 75 per mensem. Of these, all are Natives of India, 11 being Hindus, 9 Mahomedans and 2 Native Christians.

5. There is one Registrar of Calcutta—a Hindu—on Rs. 600, but the next incumbent will receive Rs. 400 only.

6. Below these come the rank and file of the Department—the Rural Sub-Registrars paid by fees. They are 241 in number, and they are composed of one Eurasian, 144 Hindus, and 96 Mahomedans.

7. The duties of the various members of the Department are as follow:—The Inspector General supervises the whole, and besides corresponding with all District Officers, who are Registrars *ex-officio*, is supposed to inspect, if possible, every *sadr* office yearly. He is also senior Marriage Registrar of Calcutta, has charge of book registration, all census work, the supervision of the registration of Mahomedan marriages and divorces, and is about to be placed in charge of the registration of births and deaths throughout the country.

8. The Inspectors have no duty beyond that of inspection. By the terms of their appointment they are supposed to spend 300 days in the year on tour, and have to inspect between them every office in these provinces in the course of the year. This feat they can just accomplish by incessant travelling.

9. The duties of the Registrar of Calcutta require no explanation.

10. Special Sub-Registrars are appointed at the head-quarters of those districts where the registration work is very heavy, or where the number of subordinate offices to be supervised is large. In other districts one of the District staff is entrusted with the work, receiving a small commission in addition to his ordinary salary. The Special Sub-Registrar or the *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar at district head-quarters, besides carrying on his own work as registering officer at the *sadr* station, has also to visit and inspect every rural office in the district—those in the *sadr* sub-division once a quarter, and those in other sub-divisions than the *sadr* once every half year. They draw travelling allowance when on inspection duty.

11. The duty of the Rural Sub-Registrars is to register the deeds presented to them and to submit returns, &c. They are paid by fees only at a fixed scale, which will be explained below.

The present regulations of the Department as to admission to the various grades and ranks of which it is composed, and to promotion therein; or, if no such regulations exist, a statement of the principles by which the departmental or other authority invested with the duty is guided in making first appointment to or promotions in the Department.

12. The Inspector General and the Inspectors are appointed directly by the Lieutenant-Governor; the Registrar of Calcutta and all Special Sub-Registrars by the same authority, generally upon the nomination of the Inspector General, and always after consultation with him. Rural Sub-Registrars are usually nominated by District Officers, but in case of the selection being thought unsuitable, or there being no local candidate, the nomination is made to the Lieutenant-Governor by the Inspector General. Promotions and transfers are conducted on the same principle.

The conditions of service in the Department in regard to pay, pension, and furlough.

13. It has already been explained that the Inspector General and the Inspectors are paid by salary only, as are the Registrar of Calcutta and one of the Special Sub-Registrars. The remainder of the Special Sub-Registrars are paid partly by salary and partly by fees. Rural Sub-Registrars, with the exception of one special case, are all paid by commission, according to a sliding scale, arranged in proportion to the number of deeds registered by them per mensem. This scale is given in the margin. They receive also an establishment allowance, arranged in similar proportions.

When the number of registrations does not exceed 60 in a month, the Rural Sub-Registrar will receive Rs. 40.

				Rs.
Above	60	and not exceeding	80	... 50
,,	80	ditto	125	... 70
,,	125	ditto	170	... 85
,,	170	ditto	200	... 95
,,	200	ditto	250	...105
,,	250	ditto	300	...110
,,	300	ditto	350	...115
,,	350	ditto	400	...125
,,	400	ditto	450	...135
,,	450	ditto	500	...145
,,	500	.....	...	...150

14. As regards pension and furlough, Rural Sub-Registrars are entitled to neither, though as a matter of fact leave without pay is granted to them on sufficient cause being shown. The other officers of the Department are under the pension and furlough rules of the Covenanted or Uncovenanted Service as the case may be.

The technical requirements of the Department, and the professional attainments essential for efficient service in its various branches.

15. For Rural Sub-Registrars all that is required is honesty, respectable social position, intelligence, and fair business capacity. A knowledge of English is not insisted on, except in the case of the larger and more important offices, and as a matter of fact about one-third of the Rural Sub-Registrars do not know enough English to enable them to carry on their duties in that language.

16. For Special Sub-Registrars all these qualifications are required in a higher degree, and most of the Special Sub-Registrars are in education, ability, position and business habits quite the equals of the ordinary Deputy Magistrate or Munsif.

17. The Inspecting officers require to be careful and experienced, good linguists, both in Bengali and Hindustani, and above all things they should possess an iron constitution and inexhaustible energy and activity. The duties of these officers are extremely arduous. Since my own connection with the Department, extending over a period of ten years, two European Inspecting Officers have been invalided—one of them having died—two Natives have resigned their appointments from ill-health, and a third is now going on sick leave. A copy of the form of inspection memorandum used is appended to this note, and it will be seen how extremely minute and searching it is. All Inspecting Officers are required to make use of it, and a copy is forwarded to the Inspector-General, who retains it or sends a copy with his remarks to the officer whose office has been inspected through the District Registrar. I have already said that in my opinion the Inspector General should always be a Covenanted Civilian, and I will add here that one of the two Inspectors should, in my judgment, be a European and the other a Native of India. In the interests of the public, these officers should not retain their appointments for more than two or three years.

The classes of the community who seek to be employed in the Department, and the comparative capacity of each for rendering efficient service therein.

18. The Rural Sub-Registrars are drawn, roughly speaking, from two classes of the community *viz.*, local gentry and class of clerks and *amlah*. On the first starting of the Rural system the theory was that we should try to secure the services of local country gentlemen, who would look after registration work, as a country Magistrate in England discharges his petty magisterial duties; but it has been found that men of this class are not everywhere available, and if available are not always sufficiently intelligent or sufficiently familiar with the conduct of business to make good Rural Sub-Registrars. Consequently a large number of Rural Sub-Registrars are recruited from among the *amlah* of the District offices, and these are usually very successful. I believe that, roughly speaking, the Service is equally divided between these two classes, but there is a considerable percentage of others appointed for special reasons by the direct influence of Government, the Inspector General, or District Officers, and many of these are not bad officers. When the local gentleman is sufficiently educated to understand and carry out his duty his position makes him the best sort of Rural Sub-Registrar, but in these cases it very often happens that the Rural Sub-Registrar is mixed up in local politics, or else that he gives himself airs and does no work; whereas, on the other hand, the outsider or the promoted clerk makes up in intelligence and impartiality what he loses in dignity and local influence and knowledge, so that on the whole he is the better officer.

J. A. BOURDILLON,
Inspector General of Registration, Bengal.

The 31st March 1887.

Further note on certain points on which the Public Service Commission require information.

1. *What books and registers are kept in Registration Offices?*

The shortest answer to this question is to refer the Commission to paragraphs 70 *et seq.* of the rules, page 13 and onwards. A copy of the rules is appended hereto.

2. *What is the financial position of the Registration Department in Bengal?*

The figures for the years 1883 to 1886, all inclusive, are as follow:—

Year.	Total receipts.	Total expenditure.	Net surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1883-84	9,74,712	5,49,719	4,24,993
1884-85	10,74,501	6,25,401	4,49,100
1885-86	10,88,176	6,37,525	4,50,651
Total ...	31,37,389	18,12,645	13,24,744

The average net profit is therefore Rs. 4,41,581, of which, under the Provincial Contract system, one moiety goes to the Imperial funds and the other is absorbed by the Provincial funds.

3. *Are many cases of fraud brought to light, and are registered deeds often discredited by the Civil Courts?*

The number of registered deeds and the number of persons concerned in offences against the Registration Act will be found in the accompanying statement:—

Periods.	Nature of offences.					Number of deeds discredited by Civil Courts.			Total deeds registered
	False statement.	False personation.	Abetment.	Forgery.	False identification.	Number of deeds discredited.	For grounds connected with registration.	For other grounds.	
For 1883-84 ...	16	34	...	4	...	33	7	14	601,002
„ 1884-85 ...	13	32	...	8	...	70	11	47	688,380
„ 1885-86 ...	63	46	7	6	6	62	28	34	723,901

Considering the large number of deeds registered, it is obvious that cases of either sort are extremely rare.

4. *What is the proportion of Mahomedans to Hindus in the Registration Department, and how are the appointments regulated?*

Among the Rural Sub-Registrars, the proportion of Hindus to Mahomedans is as 144 to 96, or 3 to 2, and among the Special Sub-Registrars as 11 to 9, or not so much as 4 to 3. This is a much smaller number of Hindus than the actual proportions of the population would justify; since the Hindus in Bengal are more than 2 to 1 as compared with the Mahomedans. The outcry, therefore, as to the insufficient employment of Mahomedans is groundless as far as this Department is concerned.

Some two or three years ago the Lieutenant-Governor passed an order that in each sub-district the Sub-Registrar should be of the same religion as the majority of the population. Great difficulty was found in carrying out this order, inasmuch as the districts where the Mahomedans predominate numerically are just those where they are least educated and where good Hindu candidates are most easily available. On the other hand, in Behar, where there is no difficulty in getting well-to-do and educated Mahomedan candidates, the mass of the population is so largely Hindu, that if these rules are adhered to, Mahomedan candidates cannot be employed. Lately, however, there have not been wanting signs that the Local Government is relaxing the strictness of these rules.

CALCUTTA,
The 31st March 1887.

J. A. BOURDILLON,
Inspector General of Registration, Bengal.

Existing organization and constitution of the Registration Department.

1	2	3	4						
			Number of appointments in each class or grade now held by—						
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments, or of appointments not being purely clerical, of salaries of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and the other appointments amongst classes and grades, with rate of pay attached to each.	1 Europeans not domiciled in India.	2 Europeans domiciled in India.	3 Eurasians.	4 Natives of India.			
						(a) Hindus.	(b) Mahomedans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
		Rs.							
Registration.	122	1 Inspector General of Registration ... 1,500	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		1 First Inspector of Registration 800	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		1 Second Inspector of Registration... .. 600	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		1 Registrar of Calcutta . 600	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		1 Special Sub-Registrar. 200	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
		9 Do. do. at *100	...	...	...	6	2	1	9
		12 Do. do. at *75	...	...	...	5	7	...	12
		96 Rural Sub-Registrars drawing commission Rs.100† and upwards ...	...	...	...	55	41	...	96

*NOTE—*Ex-officio* Sub-Registrars whose average commission is limited to Rs. 100 a month (a limit rarely reached) have been excluded from this list. Besides fixed salaries, these special Sub-Registrars get a commission, calculated on the number of documents registered by them according to sanctioned scale.

† This represents the number of Rural Sub-Registrars whose commissions in 1886-87 actually averaged Rs. 100 and upwards. The number varies from year to year.

BENGAL.

Registration.

Section III.—Sittings at Calcutta.

WITNESS No. I.—*24th March 1887.*

Examination of HENRY BLUNT BEAMES, ESQ., Officiating Second Inspector of Registration.

The *President.*

I have been a member of the Subordinate Executive Service for 15 years, and was holding the office of Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector when I received my present appointment in November 1885. The duties of my appointment are to travel round and inspect the Registration Offices in one-half of the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. My colleague, who is also a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, examines the offices in the other half. We exchange our divisions in alternate years.

I have not had any experience of the system of registration obtaining in other parts of India; but, so far as I am able to form an opinion, I consider the system obtaining in Bengal is working excellently, and I have not observed any defects in that system which would defeat the intention of the Registration Act. Registration is, as a rule, effected with promptitude and sufficient care is taken in securing the identification of the parties who execute instruments. The instruments are legibly copied in the proper books and the indexes are well kept up and are sufficient to enable a search to be carried out without difficulty. Complaints have been made to me when on tour, not respecting the system, but only as to the conduct of certain officers. These complaints are very rare. So far as I can recollect I received three in a year and a half; the complaints were that there had been delay in granting copies or allowing searches, until small fees had been paid. In one case in Chittagong it was discovered there were unreasonable delays, but no evidence was forthcoming of extortion. In another case at Gya, where information was given by anonymous petition, I found, on examining the registers, that there had been unreasonable delays and reported accordingly; and in a case at Putha, in Rajshahye, a man made a verbal complaint to me and the registering officer was subsequently dismissed from the service.

I am engaged in inspecting the offices of the division under me during the whole year and can visit every office in that time. District Magistrates inspect the registration offices in their districts, but their examination is not so close as ours—firstly, because they have not leisure and secondly because they have not sufficient technical knowledge. Our inspections, however, would not keep men up to the mark without these magisterial inspections. The Inspector can only inspect once a year and it is generally known about what time his visit is to be anticipated. It is impossible to say when the Magistrate may think fit to inspect the registration offices. I have observed that, if the Magistrate of the District is energetic, the Registration offices are in a high state of efficiency in his district; and that if he is lax, they are frequently very inefficiently attended to. The Sub-Registrars' inspections are also periodical, *viz.* every three months; they therefore are also to be expected at almost stated times.

I do not think that it would be desirable to relieve Magistrates of the District of their functions as Inspecting officers of registration, for this reason, and for the reason that in so large an area it is necessary to have an officer with exceptional authority and position. I am of opinion that the office of Inspector General could not at present be filled by a Native. I may mention that the office entails the exercise of considerable patronage, which is distributed without exception to Natives, and is therefore exercised with less suspicion of partiality by a European. The Inspection Report marked H. is the form used by me on inspection tours.

Of the several classes who seek employment in this Department, the Mahomedans who are selected are as good as the Hindus; and I am unable to say, without considering each instance, that any class are as a rule superior or inferior to the other.

WITNESS No. II.—*24th March 1887.*

Examination of BABU HARI CHAITANYA GHOSE, First Inspector of Registration.

Babu Hari Chaitanya Ghose.

The *President.*

I am an Inspector of Registration in Bengal. I entered the Subordinate Executive Service in June 1868, and rose to be Deputy Magistrate and Head Assistant in the Revenue Department of the Bengal Secretariat; and in 1882 I obtained the appointment I now hold. I consider registration is efficiently carried out in accordance with law in these Provinces and that the officers engaged in the Department are as a rule efficient and trustworthy. I have only known one instance in which an officer of the Department was charged with dishonesty—the wilful omission to enter in the fee book a commission fee of Rs. 10. The *Sadar* Sub-Registrars are expected to inspect

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the offices in their respective districts once in every three months, but they are unable to do so as a rule, they do so once in 6 months. There are two classes of *Sadar* Sub-Registrars, the Special Sub-Registrars, and the *Ex-officio, i. e.*, Deputy Magistrates who undertake registration in addition to their other duties. The former have more technical knowledge and make the better Inspectors. The Inspectors inspect once in each year. All Inspecting officers are required to fill up the form produced, excepting Magistrates of Districts, who are excused from answering all but the principal questions if they have not leisure to do so. The Special and *Ex-officio* Sub-Registrars submit their reports through the District Magistrate as District Registrar. I consider it is expedient that the Magistrate of the District should continue to exercise the functions of District Registrar and to make reports. Some District Magistrates inspect very thoroughly, others not quite so well. I do not see any reason why both the Inspectorships should be held by Natives, nor do I see any reason why they should not.

I have not considered whether the appointment of Inspector General might not be held by a Native. There is a great deal of patronage attached to the office, and a European's motives in exercising it would not be questioned. The Mahomedans, who are picked men, are quite as efficient in this Department as the Hindus; and so far as I know both the class of landed gentry and the clerical class, who have accepted office in the Department, discharge their duties with equal efficiency. In our Department it is very important that the employés should be reliable men and care is exercised in selecting them. Any man who showed himself inefficient would be dismissed. The inspections are so frequent that an inefficient or negligent officer is soon detected.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

The Inspector General of Registration for the North-West Provinces and Oudh is also Commissioner of Excise and Stamps and Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. The salary of the appointment is ₹2,250, and it is held by a member of the Covenanted Civil Service. All Civil and Sessions Judges in the North-West Provinces are *ex-officio* District Registrars, as are also the Commissioner of Kumaon, all Deputy Commissioners in the Jhánsi Division, the Superintendent of the Tarai, the Subordinate Judge of Dehra Dun, and the Deputy Superintendent of the Family Domains of the Mahárája of Benares. These officers receive no remuneration from the Registration Department.

There are four District Registrars in Oudh, one for each of the Lucknow, Fyzabad, Sitapur and Rae Bareli Divisions respectively. The District Registrar of the Lucknow Division receives a salary of ₹100 plus 50 per cent. on the fees received monthly. The average of his monthly emoluments is estimated at ₹490. The appointment is at present held by Mr. Lincoln, a domiciled European, a pensioned District Judge. The Registrar of the Fyzabad Division receives a monthly salary of ₹75 plus 50 per cent. of the monthly receipts. His average monthly emoluments are estimated at ₹188. The office is at present held by Mr. H. Kavanagh, a domiciled European, but during his absence on deputation Munshi Mauj Husain is acting in it. The District Registrar of the Sitapur Division receives a monthly salary of ₹30 plus 50 per cent. of the monthly receipts. The average monthly income from these sources is estimated at ₹128. The District Registrar of the Rae Bareli Division receives a salary of ₹30 plus 50 per cent. of the monthly receipts. The average monthly income from these sources is estimated at ₹105. The appointments at Sitapur and Rae Bareli are held by Mahomedans. It should be stated that the salaries allowed to Registration officers, in addition to fees, are intended to cover all costs of office establishment and contingencies except postage and travelling allowance. With the exception of the Tahsildárs of Almorah in Kumaon, Srínagar in Garhwal, Káshipur in the Tarai, Anupshahr in Bulandshahr, and Bisalpur in Pilibhit, all Tahsildárs in the North-West Provinces are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars. The remuneration of these officers for registration work depends on the number of documents annually registered in their respective offices. In an office where 2,000 documents are annually registered, and the fees annually amount to ₹2,000, the Sub-Registrar receives a registration allowance of ₹50 a month; where the number falls between 2,000 and 1,000, ₹25 a month; where the number falls below 1,000 but is above or nearly equal to 200 per annum, ₹15 a month; and at offices where less than 200 deeds are registered, ₹10 a month.

Under an order of the Government of the North-West Provinces, dated 8th October 1885, Sub-Registrarships are being gradually conferred on persons who have at the time no other employment in Government service and who are selected, if possible, from among retired Tahsildárs, Náib Tahsildárs or other pensioned officials. These Sub-Registrars on appointment are to be exempt from the rule directing retirement at 55 years of age, and are to receive a salary of ₹30 and 15 per cent. of the registration fees.

The Assistant Commissioner of Naini Tál, the Sadar Amins of Almorah (in Kumaun) and Srínagar (in Garhwal), the Peshkar of Káshipur (in the Tarai), the Tahsildárs of Chakia and Gangapur (in the Family Domains of the Maharaja of Benares) and the Sazawal of Dudhi (in Mirzapur) are also *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars. Of these officers some receive only a small monthly allowance, others a percentage on the monthly receipts. The Cantonment Magistrates of Agra, Allahabad, Bareilly, Benares, Cawnpore, Chakrata, Jhánsi, Lucknow, Meerut, Ranikhet and Rurki are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars within the limits of their respective cantonments. There are ten Special Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces who are stationed respectively at Allahabad, Benares, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Agra, Muttra, Brindaban, Bareilly, Bisalpur and Pilibhit. The Special Sub-Registrar at Benares is a domiciled European, the Special Sub-Registrar at Allahabad is a Eurasian; both of these officers receive a salary of ₹100 plus 20 per cent. of the monthly receipts, which are estimated to amount in the case of the former appointment to ₹225 and in the case of the latter to ₹164. Of the other Special Sub-Registrars one is a Hindu and seven are Mahomedans. The Special Sub-Registrars at Bareilly and Pilibhit receive a monthly salary of ₹50 only, the Special Sub-Registrar at Bhadohi receives ₹30 plus 20 per cent. on the monthly receipts, and the other Special Sub-Registrars ₹20 plus the same percentage on the monthly receipts.

In Oudh there are 120 Sub-Registrars who have no other duties and who receive 50 per cent. of the monthly fees.

Exclusive of the Inspector General and the officers on whom registration duties devolve *ex-officio*, the appointments in this Department are held by domiciled Europeans, Eurasians, and

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Natives, and mainly by the last mentioned. With the exception of the Inspector General only six officers—the Registrars of Lucknow, Fyzabad, Sitapur and Rae Bareli, and the Special Sub-Registrars of Benares and Allahabad—receive emoluments amounting to ₹100. The Special Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces are nominated by the Inspector General, and the Sub-Registrars in Oudh by the Deputy Commissioners.

Officers in the Registration Department who have no other duties are entitled to furlough under the rules applicable to the Uncovenanted Service, and, where they receive salaries, are also entitled to pension, but where they are paid by fees alone they receive no pension. The Departmental member considers that the technical requirements of the Department consist of a familiar knowledge of the provisions of the Registration Act and of the rules framed by Government under that Act, a knowledge of the Stamp Acts and some acquaintance with the phraseology used in legal documents. He observes that these are the only technical qualifications that are found necessary for practical purposes in the case of Sub-Registrars; for, although questions requiring no small legal knowledge frequently arise, they are usually referred to the Registrars, and, if necessary, to the Inspector General. But he regards unswerving integrity as the most indispensable requisite for Registration officers of all grades.

Candidates for employment in the Registration Department belong to the same classes of the community as seek Government service in other Departments: both Hindus and Mahomedans apply for the post of Sub-Registrars, and, among the latter, especially Kazis, the hereditary Registrars under the Mahomedan rule.

The Departmental member considers that there is no marked difference between the capacities of the members of different classes as Registration officials: honesty, industry and commonsense, the attributes most required being, he observes, not confined to any class of the community in particular. But he is of opinion that the Registration Department is not one in which it would be desirable that appointments of untried men should be made by competition; and he considers that men of proved merit and fitness should be selected for these posts, and that they may be efficiently filled by pensioned officers, such as Tahsildárs and others, who have had a practical experience of registration and similar work.

No witnesses were produced or presented themselves for examination at the inquiry into this Department in the North-West Provinces.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES.

Registration.

Section II.

Letter from the GOVERNMENT OF N.-W.'P. & OUDH, To the PRESIDENT, SUB-COMMITTEE.

In reply to your letter No. 181, dated the 17th ultimo, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Sub-Committee of the Public Service Commission, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Registration, North-West Provinces and Oudh, furnishing the particulars required regarding the Registration Department.

2. I am to add that in accordance with the orders of this Government, dated 8th October 1885, Sub-Registrarships are being gradually transferred to special Sub-Registrars not otherwise in Government employ, whose pay is Rs. 30 per mensem and 15 per cent. of the fees. These men are not subject to the rule directing retirement at 55 years of age, and they are to be selected, if possible, from among retired Tahsildárs or Náib Tahsildárs and pensioned officials.

Copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Registration, North-West Provinces and Oudh, to the Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh, No. $\frac{29}{IV.\ 19}$ C.R., dated 4th April 1887.

With reference to your No. $\frac{1368}{II.\ 592}$, dated 21st March 1887, I have the honour to return in original the letter of the Secretary to the Public Service Commission, No. 181, dated 17th March 1887, and to report as follows:—

Covenanted Civil Servants.—Under the rules laid down by the Secretary of State.
Tahsildárs.—Appointed by the Board of Revenue, North-West Provinces, under Board's Book Cir. IX. 68.
Other employés.—Under the rules for educational qualification laid down at p. 45, part V. of Manual of Government Order.

2. The standing orders of Government which contain the regulations as to the admission to the various grades and ranks are marginally shown.

3. The Department consists of—

(*a*). An Inspector General, a member of the Covenanted Civil Service, who is also Commissioner of Excise and Stamps, and Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, North-West Provinces and Oudh.

(*b*). *Ex-officio* District Registrars, who are Civil and Sessions Judges, also members of the Covenanted Civil Service.

(*c*). *Ex-officio* Sub-Registrars, who are Tahsildárs.

(*d*). Departmental Sub-Registrars appointed under the terms of G. O. No. $\frac{923}{VII-152-8}$, dated 8th October 1886; at present only one man, Madat Ali Khán, a pensioned Tahsildár, has been appointed to this grade.

(*e*). Special Sub-Registrars—

1 at Allahabad	... Mr. Lyons.
1 at Benares	... Mr. Heinig.
1 at Mirzápur	... Munshi Inaiat Husain.
1 at Bhadohi	... Munshi Mahomed Sharif.
1 at Agra	... „ „ Sadik
1 at Muttra	... Pensioned Risáldár, Major Báhádur Saiyid Hidayat Ali.
1 at Brindaban	... Munshi Abdul Subhan.
1 at Bareilly	... Jamna Prasad.
1 at Bisalpur	... Azizul Husain.
1 at Pilibhit	... Kazi Husain Ahmad.

(*f*). The Cantonment Magistrates at the following places are *ex-officio** Sub-Registrars within the limits of their respective Cantonments—Agra, Chakratta, Allahabad, Bareilly, Rurki, Benáres, Cawnpore, Meerut, Jhánsi, Ranikhet, Lucknow.

*Under G. O. No. dated.

*Under G. O. No. 1258, dated 16th March 1872, published at page 250 of the *Oudh Government Gazette* of 23rd March 1872.

(*g*). In Oudh* there are 4 Registrars, *viz.*—

Lucknow	... Mr. Lincoln.
Fyzabad	... Mr. Kavanagh (at present on deputation as extra Assistant Commissioner, Sultánpur.)
Sitápur	... Kázi Saiyid Mahomed.
Ráe Bareli	... Muhammad Muzaffar Husain Khán.

Special Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces, and Registrars in Oudh, have been nominated by the Inspector General of Registration from time to time as vacancies have arisen.

(*h*). There are 121 Sub-Registrars* in Oudh. Prior to the amalgamation (1877) of Oudh with the North-West Provinces the practice was for the Inspector General to appoint persons to fill up any vacancies. Since the amalgamation, especially since the issue of G. O. No. 503A, dated Naini Tal, 15th July 1878, (Judicial) (Civil) Department, the practice has been to appoint to vacancies persons nominated by the Deputy Commissioner of the District in which the Sub-Registrar's office is situated, in order to give the local District Officers a voice in the selection of suitable candidates.

* Under G. O. No. 550, dated 5th February 1872, published at page 96 of the *Oudh Government Gazette* dated 10th February 1872.

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With regard to promotions, very few occur amongst any grades in the North-West Provinces Sub-Registrars, who, as Tahsildárs, are transferred from one Tahsildári to another by order of the Board of Revenue; and it frequently happens, that in the case of his transfer a Tahsildár gains or loses according as he happens to be transferred to a Tahsil having greater or less registration work; for the pay attached to the Sub-Registrar's post is regulated by the number of instruments usually registered thereat, *e.g.*, in an office where no less than 2,000 documents are annually registered and the annual fee amounts to Rs. 2,000, the Sub-Registrar receives a registration allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem; where the number falls between 2,000 and 1,000 Rs. 25 per mensem; where the number is below 1,000 and above, or nearly equal to, 200 per annum, the allowance is Rs. 15 per mensem. At offices where less than 200 documents are registered the allowance is Rs. 10 per mensem.

In 1882 the Special Sub-Registrar of Bareilly died, and the present incumbent was promoted to the vacant post from a Special Sub-Registrarship (Bisalpur) of smaller emoluments. In 1883-84 Mahomed Sharif, Special Sub-Registrar, Mirzápur, was promoted to a better paid Special Sub-Registrarship at Bhadohi.

4. The conditions of service as regards pay, pension and furlough are those laid down in the Financial Code for the following grades of officers:—

Inspector General, and *ex-officio* Registrars and Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces.

The Special Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces are allowed leave and furlough as laid down in the Code, and pension on their salary only exclusive of fees.

The new grade of Departmental Sub-Registrars will be entitled to leave, furlough or pension according to the Codes for such period as they are in the Department. The Registrars and Sub-Registrars in Oudh are under the provisions of the Leave Code, but as they are paid by fees, they cannot get pensions.

5. The technical requirements of the Department consist of a familiar knowledge of the provisions of the Registration Act, III of 1877, and of the rules framed by Government under Section 69 of that Act (*vide* G. O. No. $\frac{22}{-111-6}$, dated 5th February 1886, in the Judicial (Civil) Department). A knowledge of the Stamp Acts, I of 1879 and VII of 1870, is also required, and some acquaintance with the phraseology used in legal documents. These qualifications are all the technical qualifications which are necessary for Sub-Registrars; but for the post of Registrar a much higher standard is required, as questions requiring no small legal knowledge and skill frequently crop up in registration appeals. But the most indispensable requisite for Registration Officers of all grades is unswerving integrity.

6. Candidates who seek employment as Sub-Registrars belong to much the same classes of the community as aspirants to Government employ in other Departments; both Hindus and Mahomedans apply for these posts. The duties of registration were formerly part of the duties of the Kázi—an office which usually remained in the same family for generations, and the descendants of some of the Kázis, whose offices were abolished by Act XVI of 1860, are most anxious to be appointed to these posts, chiefly, I think, in the hope of eventually obtaining a recognition of the ancestral character which formerly belonged to the appointment, which no doubt constitutes its chief value (to the holder). There is no marked difference between the capacities of the members of different classes as Registration Officials. Honesty, industry and common sense are the attributes most required, and these are not confined to any class of the community in particular.

7. The organization and constitution of the Department will have to be collected from the various Registrars, who have been asked to submit the required information and to compile the required statement as soon as possible.

Existing organization and constitution of the Registration Department.

1	2	3			4						
					Number of appointments in each class or grade now held by—						
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments, or of appointments not being purely clerical, of Salaries of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and the other appointments amongst classes and grades, with rate of pay attached to each.			1 Europeans not domiciled in India.	2 Europeans domiciled in India.	3 Eurasians.	4 Natives of India.			
								(a) Hindus.	(b) Mahomedans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
		Fixed Salary per month.	Commission on fees realised per month (average.)	Total per month.							
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.							
*1	Inspector General ...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Special Sub-Registrar, Benares...	100	125	225	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
3	Do. Allahabad ..	100	64	164	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
4	Registrar and Sub-Registrar, Lucknow ...	†100	390	490	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5	Do. Fyzabad ...	†75	113	188	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
6	Do. Sitápur ...	†30	98	128	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
7	Do. Rái Bareli ...	†30	75	105	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

* A member of the Covenanted Civil Service who is also Commissioner of Excise and Stamps *ex-officio*.

† The fixed allowance attached to these posts is given to officers in addition to the fees which they receive to cover all costs of office establishment and contingencies except postage and travelling allowance.

Numbers 1 and 2 receive commission @ 20 per cent. on fees realized, in addition to fixed salary.

Numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6 do. @ 50 per cent do. do.

R. WALL,

Inspector General of Registration, N.-W. P. and Oudh.

Statement showing remunerations of Registration Officers in the N.-W. P. & Oudh.

Office.	Monthly remuneration.
Inspector General of Registration	Commissioner, Excise and Stamps *ex-officio* (consolidated salary ₹2,250).
District Registrars in the North-Western Provinces.	
All Civil and Sessions Judges. All Deputy Commissioners in the Jhansi Division. The Commissioner of Kumaun. The Superintendent of Tarai. The Subordinate Judge of Dehra Dun. The Deputy Superintendent of Family Domains of the Máharája of Benares.	Do not receive any remuneration from the Registration Department.
Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces.	
All Tahsildárs except those of— Almorah in Kumaun. Srinagar in Garhwal. Kashipur in Tarai. Anupshahr in Bulandshahr and Bisalpur in Pilibhit.	Receive remuneration ₹50, 25, 15, or 10 from the Registration Department, according to the amount of registration work in the Sub-Registrar's office.
The Assistant Commissioner of Naini Tal . . .	₹20 only.
The Sadar Amin of Almorah	₹20 only.
The Sadar Amin of Srinagar	₹10 only.
The Peshkar of Kashipur	50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
The Tahsildár of Chakia	₹10 only.
The Tahsildár of Gangapur	₹25 only.
The Sazawal of Dudhi in Mirzapur	50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
All Cantonment Magistrates	50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Special Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces.	
Mr. E. E. Heinig, Benares Municipality . . .	₹100 plus 20 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Mr. W. H. Lyons, Allahabad „ . . .	₹100 plus 20 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Munshi Jamna Prasad, Bareilly „ . . .	₹50 only.
Kazi Husain Ahmad, Pilibhit „ . . .	₹50 only.
Munshi Mahomed Sidiq, Agra „ . . .	₹20 plus 20 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Saiyid Hidayat Ali (pensioned) Risaldár Major-Bahadur. Muttra „ . . .	Do. Do.
Kazi Mahomed Sharif, for pargana Bhadohi . .	₹30 plus 20 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Munshi Abdul Subhan, Bindraban Municipality . .	₹20 plus 20 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Munshi Inait Husain pensioned Tahsildár, Mirazapur Municipality.	Do. Do.
Munshi Mahomed Aziz-ul Hasan, Bisalpur Municipality and Tahsil.	Do. Do.
Departmental Sub-Registrars in the North-West Provinces.	
Sayed Madad Ali (pensioned Tahsildár) of Anupshahr in Bulandshahr.	₹30 plus 15 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Registrars in Oudh.	
Mr. F. Lincoln (pensioned District Judge), Lucknow Division.	₹100 plus 50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Mr. H. Kavanagh on deputation, as officiating Deputy Collector and Extra Assistant Commissioner, Fyzabad Division—Mr. Mauj Husain acting.	₹75 plus 50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Kazi Sayed Mahomed, Sitapur Division . . .	₹30 plus 50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Mahomed Muzaffar Husain, Rae Bareli . . .	₹30 plus 50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
Sub-Registrars in Oudh.	
120 Officers who have no other duties . . .	50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.
The Cantonment Magistrate of Lucknow . . .	50 per cent. on the monthly receipts.

R. WALL,
Inspector General of Registration, N.-W. P. & Oudh.

PUNJAB.
Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

Punjab. — Registration. — Section I.

The Inspector General of Registration in the Punjab, who also holds the appointment of Superintendent of Stamps, receives a combined salary of ₹1,200 rising to ₹1,500, of which three-fifths are charged to the Registration and two-fifths to the Stamp Department. The office is at present held by a domiciled European, an Uncovenanted civilian.

There are thirty-one District Registrars in the Punjab. The appointment is in every instance held *ex-officio* by the Deputy Commissioner and without remuneration. There are 199 Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars; of these eighteen are Treasury officers, who are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars, and receive no remuneration; eleven are Cantonment Magistrates and Assistant Commissioners who are also *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars and are remunerated by a percentage of the fees received; one hundred and twenty-six Tahsildárs are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars and receive a percentage on their pay proper in remuneration for their Registration duties; the remaining forty-four Sub-Registrars have no other official duties and are remunerated by a percentage of the receipts.

The Departmental member mentions that the official Registration agency is being gradually replaced, as suitable men can be found, by a non-official one; that of the forty-four Registering officers of that class, thirty are Hindus, eleven are Mahomedans and three are Europeans and Eurasians. He states that in the Punjab there are only four Registering officers whose monthly earnings during the past year averaged ₹100 and upwards, *viz.*, the Sub-Registrars of Amritsar, Delhi, Lahore and Peshawar; that the Sub-Registrar of Amritsar is a domiciled European, and the Sub-Registrars of Delhi, Lahore and Peshawar are Mahomedans; that the average of the monthly emoluments was at Amritsar ₹187-12, at Delhi ₹160-10, at Lahore ₹148-12, and at Peshawar ₹109-4. He further states that the appointment of Sub-Registrar, when remunerated by fees, gives no claim to either pay, pension or furlough; that a large proportion of the non-official Sub-Registrars are Native gentlemen of standing and position, who accept the office on account of the income, but more on account of the dignity which the office is considered to confer; that some are retired Government officers, and that these last in his judgment make the best class of Registering officers. The original nomination rests with the District Officer, and the appointments are made by the Local Government usually on the joint recommendation of the Commissioner of the Division and the Inspector General. No technical or other special qualifications are insisted on save a knowledge of the Registration Act and of departmental rules.

Three witnesses were produced for examination by the Sub-Committee.

Lala Barkat Ram, Pleader, Sub-Registrar of Gujranwala, stated that Special Registrars are remunerated by a commission of 50 per cent. on the first ₹50 received as registration fees, and 25 per cent. on all sums paid for fees in excess of ₹50; that he knew several of the other Sub-Registrars, and that they are not men of high education, but were chosen principally for their social position; and that he could not say whether or not they are competent to discharge their duties. He mentioned that he keeps five registers for deeds of various kinds; that he keeps no index showing the properties dealt with in the case of deeds relating to land; and that it can only be discovered whether a deed dealing with a particular piece of land has been registered if the names of the parties are known. He stated that the Inspector General and the Registrar of the District are required to inspect offices annually and at any other time at which they can conveniently do so; that he had known the inspection work on two occasions deputed to a Native officer, and that the Native officer had conducted the inspection as efficiently as the Inspector General could have done. He considered a knowledge of the Stamp Law necessary for a Sub-Registrar; he professed he had not heard any complaint that sums had been demanded as speed-money in excess of the usual fees for registration, either by a Sub-Registrar or by any clerk in his office; that during the three years he had held the office of Sub-Registrar no case of false personation had come under his notice; and that in his belief non-official Registrars use greater precautions than *ex-officio* Registrars to guard against such offences. He urged that Registrars and Sub-Registrars should be officers who have no other duties to interfere with the discharge of their duties as Registration officers. He considered that officers, such as Tahsildárs, regard their registration duties as extra work, and have no leisure properly to attend to them; that the duties of registration could not be conscientiously discharged except by educated men who had leisure to devote daily six hours to the work in large stations and four hours in small stations; and that to secure such men they must be paid fixed salaries. He stated that he entertained objections on similar grounds to the employment of Deputy Collectors as Registrars. He also recommended that the Sub-Registrar at the Sadar Station should be invested with the powers of Registrar. He considered it important that the Registration Department should be made as efficient as possible, inasmuch as much of the litigation of the country had its origin in deeds, and the Civil Courts at present attached

very little weight to registration owing to the many defects of the system. Lastly, he advised that Sub-Registrars should be invested with magisterial powers in order to enable them to deal with cases of false personation.

Fakir Syad Jamal-ud-din, Sub-Registrar of Lahore, and Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner, stated that he was formerly an Extra Assistant Commissioner in Government service, and had then, at times, performed the duties of Sub-Registrar; that he received his present appointment in 1874. He expressed his approval of the existing system, whereby registration is effected partly by officers *ex-officio* and partly by officers specially appointed for that purpose. He considered it desirable that the Deputy Commissioners should continue to discharge the duties of Registrars; and that they had sufficient leisure to devote to registration and inspection. He admitted that as the Deputy Commissioners cannot themselves read the deeds, they are obliged to depute the inspection of deeds to their Native subordinates. He considered payment by fees a preferable system to payment by salaries, as it afforded an opportunity for the employment of pensioned officers.

Mr. E. Nicholl, the Sub-Registrar of Amritsar, stated that he registered in his office during 1886 more than 300 deeds a month; that his office was inspected by the Inspector General and the Registrar of the District. He approved of the present system of entrusting registration duties to certain officers *ex-officio*, because the work does not everywhere afford sufficient employment to occupy the whole of a man's time. He admitted that the necessary absence of the Tahsildár from his head-quarters entailed some inconvenience on persons who bring their deeds for registration. He considered a knowledge of the Stamp Law and of the legal nature of instruments essential for a Registration officer.

PUNJAB.
Registration.

Section II.—Note by the Inspector General of Registration, Punjab.

Punjab. Registration. Section II.

2. The present establishment of the Department consists of—

(1) An Inspector General of Registration, who is also Superintendent of Stamps, and receives a salary of ₹1,200 per mensem rising by annual increments of ₹100 to ₹1,500 per mensem, chargeable to the Registration and Stamp Departments respectively in the proportion of three-fifths to the former and two-fifths to the latter Department.

(2) 31 Registrars of District; this appointment is in every instance held, *ex-officio*, by the Deputy Commissioner for the time being in executive charge of the Civil District, who performs his registration duties without remuneration.

(3) 199 Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars, comprising—

(*a*) 18 Treasury officers (*ex-officio*);

(*b*) 11 Cantonment Magistrates and Assistant Commissioners (*ex-officio*);

(*c*) 126 Tahsildárs (*ex-officio*);

(*d*) 44 others (non-official).

Class (*a*) receives no remuneration for registration duties.

Classes (*b*) and (*d*) are remunerated by a proportion of the fees taken.

Class (*c*) is remunerated by a percentage on the pay proper of the Tahsildár.

For further particulars see the rules regarding the appointment and remuneration of registering officers (sanctioned in your letter No. 30, dated 17th May 1886), a copy of which is enclosed for ready reference.

3. The form sent by the Public Service Commission is not quite suitable to the peculiar circumstances of the Punjab Registration Department, but I have filled it up so far as I am able to do so, and need only add the following remarks.

4. The official Registratron agency is being gradually replaced, as suitable men can be found, by a non-official agency. At present there are 44 Registering Officers of this class, of whom 30 are Hindus (more than half of whom are Sikhs), 11 are Mahomedans and 3 are Europeans and Eurasians. The appointment gives no claim to either pay, pension or furlough, and is remunerated entirely by a proportion of the fees taken. A large proportion of the non-official Sub-Registrars are Native gentlemen of standing and position, who accept office partly for the income, but more on account of the dignity which the office is considered to confer; some are retired Government officers, who in my judgment make the best class of Registering Officers; others have been selected for special reasons. No technical qualifications or special attainments are insisted upon, save a knowledge of the Registration Act and of Departmental rules. The original nomination rests with the District Officer, and the appointment is made by the Local Government, usually on the joint recommendation of the Commissioner of the Division and the Inspector General of Registration.

Existing Organisation and Constitution of the Registration Department of the Punjab.

1	2	3	4						
			Number of appointments in each class or grade how held by—						
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments or of appointments not being purely clerical of salaries of ₹100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointmets and of other appointments mentioned in Column 2 amongst classes and grades, with rate of pay attached to each.	1 Europeans not domiciled in India.	2 Europeans domiciled in India.	3 Eurasians.	4 Natives of India.			
						(*a*) Hindus.	(*b*) Mahomedans.	(*c*) Others.	(*d*) Total.
1 Registration.	Inspector General	Pay ₹1,200 rising to ₹1,500 per mensem.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Sub-Registrar of Amritsar.	Average emoluments ₹187-12-0.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Sub-Registrar of Delhi.	Average emoluments ₹166-10-0.	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Sub-Registrar of Lahore.	Average emoluments ₹148-12-0	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Sub-Registrar of Peshawar.	Average emoluments ₹109-4-0.	...	...	...	...	1	...	1

PUNJAB.

Registration.

Section III.—Sittings at Lahore.

WITNESS No. I.—*26th April 1887.*

Examination of LALA BARKAT RAM, Pleader and Sub-Registrar, Gujranwala.

The *President.*

I am paid 50 per cent. from the first 50 rupees received from registration and after that 25 per cent. I know many of the other Sub-Registrars, non-officials as well as officials. The non-officials are only appointed because of their social position. I think they are not properly educated. I cannot say whether they can do their business well or not. I keep five registers out of six and one is kept in the Registrar's office. I keep the book No. 1 in which deeds relating to land are entered, Book No. 2 in which are entered the grounds for refusing to register, Book No. 3 relating to wills, Book No. 4 miscellaneous deeds, Book No. 5 for sealed deeds, and Book No. 6 for attestation of powers of attorney. We keep an index of persons in connection with Book No. 1. We do not keep an index of the lands, and you cannot ascertain whether a certain piece of land had been mortgaged or sold unless you know the names of the parties. We are not required to keep a register of lands. By the circular orders the Registrar or Inspector General is directed to inspect the offices of the Sub-Registrars annually and at any other time he can conveniently do so. Sometimes the Commissioner inspects them. In case the stamp on a deed is insufficient we impound the deed and return it to the Collector; that requires a certain amount of legal knowledge. A non-official Sub-Registrar, if he knows the Stamp Act, finds no difficulty in deciding whether a deed has been properly stamped. I do not know whether sums are ever demanded by non-official Sub-Registrars as speed-money. I do not think that Sub-Registrars take such sums. I have never heard any complaint that sums have been demanded in excess of the usual fees for registration either by the Sub-Registrar or the clerks in his office. Cases of false personation are of course possible, but I have never known a case of false personation during my three years' service as Sub-Registrar. Non-official Registrars are even more cautious than the *ex-officio* Registrars in guarding against personation. I wish to say that in the Registration Department of the Punjab there are very few non-official Sub-Registrars. As a rule the Sub-Registrars are Tahsildars who have no leisure to attend properly to the work of registration, which they regard as extra work, and until educated men are specially appointed to Sub-Registrarships the duties of registration will not be conscientiously discharged. I mean men who can devote six hours to the work in large stations and four hours in small stations. But to secure such men you must have fixed salaries. The same objection applies to Deputy Collectors as Registrars. They have not leisure for the work of registration. I want the Sub-Registrar at head-quarters to be invested with the power of Registrar under Section 7 of the Registration Act. By the circulars of the Registrar General it is ordered that the inspection should be made by the Inspector General and Deputy Commissioner and is not to be deputed to other officers. But on two occasions I know that officers have been deputed to do the work, and that the Native officer who was deputed to do the work on one occasion did it as efficiently as the Inspector General could have done. I am not contending that the office of Inspector General should be conferred on a Native at present, but I do contend that the work could be efficiently done by a Native. It may be said that the appointment of Sadar Sub-Registrar as Registrar would involve the hearing by him of appeals from his own decisions. A remedy for this would be to send appeals to the Civil Court.

Why should not the Sub-Registrar at head-quarters be Registrar only?—Because the fees charged by the Registrar are higher than those charged by the Sub-Registrar. It is necessary there should be a separate staff to inspect and conduct registration inasmuch as all litigation in the country has its origin in deeds. Civil Courts at the present moment attach very little weight to registration owing to the many defects of the system.

When you register an instrument relating to land do you send notice of it to the Revenue authorities?—No. I wish also to say that Sub-Registrars should be invested with Magisterial powers to try persons who make false declarations.

When you say that no person should be appointed Sub-Registrar who could not give to registration work daily six hours in a large station and four hours in a small station, have you satisfied yourself that so much time is required?—Yes. There are a great many details to be looked to in connection with the registration of deeds.

WITNESS No. II.—*25th June 1887.*

Examination of FAKIR SYAD JAMAL-UD-DIN, Sub-Registrar of Lahore and Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner.

Fakir Syad Jamal-ud-din.

The *President.*

When did you join the Department?—I was formerly an Extra Assistant Commissioner. I was appointed Sub-Registrar in August 1874. On an average I register about 200 deeds every month. When I was in Government service as Extra Assistant Commissioner I was also Sub-Registrar at times. I approve of the present system of registration by official and non-official Registrars. It is more convenient for the people. The Registrars exercise supervision over Sub-Registrars and the Inspector General over Registrars, and that is a good system. I would prefer that the Deputy Commissioner should continue to be Registrar. I consider he has sufficient time to devote to registration and

Punjab.
Registration.
Sec. III.
Fakir Syad Jamal-ud-din.

inspection also. The work is neither very onerous nor difficult, and the Deputy Commissioners have leisure to do it.

Do the Deputy Commissioners always do the work themselves or do they ever depute subordinate Natives to do it?—As they cannot read the deeds themselves they sometimes depute Native subordinates to do the work. I consider payment by fees better than payment by fixed salaries because it affords a field of employment for retired officers.

WITNESS No. III.—*26th April 1887.*

Examination of E. NICHOLL, Esq., Sub-Registrar, Amritsar.

The *President.*

E. Nicholl, Esq.

Where were you born?—In Ireland, and I am domiciled in this country.

How many deeds were registered in your office last year?—3864, that is, over 300 a month.

Who inspects your office?—The Inspector General of Registration and the Registrar, who is also the Deputy Commissioner of the District.

Does the Deputy Commissioner himself inspect your office or does he depute an officer for that purpose?—He inspects it once a year, and personally as a rule.

Does he ever depute this duty to his Native subordinates?—Such a thing has never occurred within my knowledge.

Have you any experience of the work of Sub-Registrars in the districts?—No.

Have you heard any complaints about the manner in which the Sub-Registrars do their work in the sub-registration offices of the districts?—Not in Amritsar District, and I know nothing from personal knowledge of other districts.

Have you had any cases of personation in your district?—None before myself.

Is it desirable that the Registration Department should be in the hands of officers whose sole duty it should be to attend to registration, or is it desirable that the system of *ex-officio* Registrars and Sub-Registrars should be maintained?—My opinion is that the present system is a good one, because the registration work in a Tahsil is insufficient to employ the whole of a man's time. In Amritsar the Tahsildár gets an allowance of so much per cent. on his salary, for registration work done in my absence. In outlying Tahsils the Tahsildárs get a percentage on their salary for registration work.

Does not the necessary absence of the Tahsildár from his station entail some inconvenience on persons who want to register deeds?—Certainly.

Do you keep any index by which you can trace property, or is your index merely a name index of the persons who have dealt with property, and not an index of the property dealt with?—It is merely a name index.

Do cases occur with any frequency, of documents being presented for registration insufficiently stamped?—Some such cases have come to my knowledge. I have always impounded the deeds and sent them to the Collector to be properly assessed.

Is it requisite that a Sub-Registrar should have a knowledge of the Stamp Law and of the legal nature of instruments?—It is essential.

We hear that there are several non-official Registrars. Can you say whether they are more cautious in guarding against personation than official Registrars are?—That I think depends more upon the individual himself.

Are there any remarks you wish to make as regards this Department?—None.

BOMBAY.
Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

The Inspector General of Registration in the Bombay Presidency has also the superintendence of the Stamp Department and of Jails. The pay of the combined appointment is ₹2,000, and the present incumbent is a European.

The Head Assistant to the Inspector General receives a salary of ₹150, and the Accountant ₹100. These officers are Hindus.

There are twenty *ex-officio* Registrars, of whom eighteen are the Collectors of Districts, one is the Assistant Political Agent at Aden, and another the Cantonment Magistrate at Deesa.

The only paid Registrar is the Registrar of Bombay, a Hindu, who receives a salary of ₹350.

There are three Inspectors of Registration and Stamps, of whom one, a Eurasian, receives a salary of ₹250, another, a Parsi, a salary of ₹175, and the third, also a Parsi, a salary of ₹150. There are four District Inspectors of Village Registration, all Hindus, of whom three receive salaries of ₹100 each and the fourth a salary of ₹80. Sub-Registrars receive salaries of from ₹12 to ₹75, and in one instance ₹100 together with a commission of 20 per cent. on fees realized.

The emoluments of twenty-one Sub-Registrars from these sources amount to ₹100 and upwards. With one exception, a Parsi, these officers are all Hindus. Inspectors are appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Inspector General. They are selected either from the Sub-Registrars or from clerks in the office of the Inspector General. Inspectors of Village Registries are appointed by the Inspector General by selection from Sub-Registrars or clerks of Registrars.

The Registrar of Bombay is appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Inspector General. Sub-Registrars are appointed on the nomination of the Inspector General and of the Registrar of the District alternately, *i.e.*, every second nomination in a district falls to the Registrar and every other to the Inspector General. Sub-Registrars are selected as far as possible either from Village Registrars under the Dekkan Relief Act, or from clerks in the offices of Sub-Registrars. No person is eligible for appointment as Head Clerk in a Registrar's office or as Sub-Registrar who has not passed the sixth vernacular standard, except in the case of clerks appointed for long and exceptionally meritorious services.

The Departmental member considers that a knowledge of Registration work and of the Stamp Act, close application and methodical habits of business are, in addition to probity, the qualifications—technical, professional and personal—required of officers in the Department. He states that all classes of the community seek employment in the Department, though the majority of the applicants are Brahmans. For experience and brain-power he would arrange the classes in the following order:—

1. Hindus.
2. Parsis.
3. Eurasians.
4. Native Christians.
5. Mahomedans.

In the ten years ending with 1886-87, 177 persons were prosecuted for offences against the Registration Law, of whom 70 were acquitted and 97 were convicted; 6 persons had absconded before they were arrested, and the cases against 2 were abandoned and against 2 were pending.

Mr. Atmaram Trimbak, Registrar of Bombay, stated that he had held the office of Head Assistant to the Inspector General for nearly twenty-four years; that the Registration Department of the Bombay Presidency is principally officered by Natives; that Sub-Registrars enter the service on ₹12 a month and rise to salaries of ₹75 and 20 per cent. commission; that they are prohibited from undertaking other duties; and that they were formerly permitted to hold licenses to sell stamps, but that very few availed themselves of that privilege. He further stated that first appointments are not obtained by competitive examination; that Sub-Registrars are on first appointment submitted to a probation of one year, in the course of which they are required to pass a departmental examination; that some of the men who enter the Department are fairly educated; that formerly registration was conducted in the Bombay Presidency by Subordinate Judges, the Assistant Judges inspecting; but that this system was abandoned because the Assistant Judges had not leisure to travel round the districts on inspection work. He further stated that the Inspectors are required not only to inspect the work of Sub-Registrars once a year, but they have also to examine stamp accounts at Treasury Sub-depôts and Court-fee stamps in Subordinate Judges' offices. He accounted for the fact that

so few Mahomedans are found in the registration offices in Bombay proper, by the paucity of applicants; and he stated that, in order to get a representation of all classes, preference was given to educated Mahomedans. He further stated that there is only one Eurasian in the Department and not more than three or four Parsis, as Parsis object to take the lower appointments.

Khán Sáheb Ratanji Shapurji Chotya, Inspector of the Gujarát Circle, stated that he entered the Department in 1874 as Sub-Registrar on a salary of ₹75 with commission to about the same amount; that out of some 33 or 34 offices in his circle he inspected on an average 26 in a year; and that it took him from three or four to fifteen days to examine an office, according to the amount of work. He stated that he considered Parsis were fairly represented in the Department in proportion to their numbers, and that the salary of ₹12 on which officers are expected to commence their service is not attractive to them. He expressed his desire to see well-educated outsiders now and then brought into the Department on salaries of ₹50 or ₹60. He thought it fortunate that officers who were brought in on initial salaries of ₹12 a month had very simple kinds of deeds to deal with. He suggested that Collectors should no longer be burdened with the duties of Registrars as they have no leisure to devote to them, and that the functions of Registrars should be delegated to other officers; and he expressed his belief that they could best be entrusted to the Divisional Inspector, each Inspector being invested with the powers of a Registrar in the several districts comprised within his charge; but inasmuch as the Inspectors would necessarily be on tour during the greater part of the year, he proposed that the power of hearing appeals from orders of refusal made by Sub-Registrars should be given to the Subordinate Judges. He pointed out that the post of Inspector General was not one of the scheduled appointments; that it had been held by an Uncovenanted officer for more than 15 years; that in all probability it would hereafter be conferred on another Uncovenanted officer, either a European or a Native; and he argued that it appeared to many anomalous that the highest Executive officer in a district should be subordinate to an Uncovenanted officer, either a Native or European, and that such an arrangement might lead to friction. For this reason he considered it unlikely that a Native would be appointed to the Inspector Generalship. On the other hand, he asserted that Inspectors were in complete touch with the subordinate officers of the Department and were thoroughly acquainted with the minutest details of their duties, and he expressed his belief that the appointment of Inspectors as Registrars would improve the *status* of the Inspectors. He advocated the appointment of a Native possessing the requisite qualifications to the office of Inspector General. He expressed his conviction that Natives of education and high moral character would be found free from local prejudices and fair in the distribution of patronage. He stated that from his own experience Natives are able to travel the distances which it is necessary for an Inspector General to accomplish when on tour. Inasmuch as, with the exception of the present head of the Department, all the officers employed in it are Natives, he thought it unnecessary to discuss the comparative merits of Natives and Europeans for employment in the Department; but he suggested that if Europeans were appointed in the subordinate ranks of the Department, they should be required to possess a thorough knowledge of the vernaculars of the districts to which they might be appointed. He recommended that the salaries of Sub-Registrars and Inspectors should be so arranged as to induce competent Sub-Registrars to accept the post of Inspector, and that the pay of Inspectors should be so graded as to induce a senior officer to aspire to the highest posts in the Department. He considered that the limit of age and other qualifications required of a candidate at the time of his appointment to the Department should be the same as for candidates seeking employment in other Departments; that the clerks of Sub-Registrars should be paid by Government and not out of the percentage allowance of the Sub-Registrars; and that when such clerks are promoted to be Sub-Registrars, the usual medical certificate as well as the limit of age should in their case be dispensed with.

He regarded it as expedient that Sub-Registrars should be transferred from one post to another after a certain term, say five years, and, in like manner, that clerks employed by them should not be allowed to remain at the same place for more than a prescribed term.

Inasmuch as promotion in the Department is extremely slow, he urged that a system of personal allowances should be introduced until a new organization is effected, and that deserving officers of the Registration Department should obtain promotion in other Departments where technical knowledge is not necessary, when such transfers could be effected without injury to persons already employed in those Departments.

Mr. Ratiram Motiram, Sub-Registrar of Surat, stated that he entered the Department in 1871 as Head Clerk to the Registrar of Broach on a salary of ₹50, and was now receiving ₹75 besides 20 per cent. commission on collections. He considered that the present system of recruiting the Department works very well, and that promotions are made according to seniority and merit. He thought it undesirable to bring in men in a higher grade than they now enter the Department, or on higher initial pay; but that, in comparison with the responsibility of their duties, Sub-Registrars are insufficiently paid.

Mr. H. A. Luxa, the Senior Inspector of Registration and Stamps, considered the present organization of the Department satisfactory, with the exception that the salaries of the 4th and 5th grade Sub-Registrars are inadequate. He expressed his belief that the officers are as a class sufficiently competent, but stated that they are discontented with their salaries.

BOMBAY.

Registration.

Section II.—Letter from Government of Bombay and Note by the Departmental Member.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Daukes' letter No. 159, dated 17th March 1887, requesting to be furnished with information regarding the organization and constitution of the Registration Department in this Presidency and in Sind, and certain other particulars relating to that Department.

2. In reply I am directed to forward herewith copies of the reports noted in the margin* received from the Inspector General of Registration, Bombay, and the Branch Inspector General of Registration in Sind, which furnish the information called for, and to state that these officers and the Inspectors of Registration in this Presidency and Sind are required to perform, in addition to their duties under the Indian Registration Act, 1877, the work of inspecting the stocks and accounts of stamps in the central and sub-depôts and of licensed stamp-vendors, and of examining stamps affixed to documents in courts and offices.

* Letter from the Branch Inspector General of Registration in Sind, No. 191, dated 7th April 1887, and of its accompaniment.
Letter from the Inspector General of Registration, Bombay, No. 928, dated 26th April 1887, and of its accompaniments.

3. I am to add that it has recently been decided by this Government to abolish the appointment of Branch Inspector General in Sind and to transfer the duties thereof to the Inspector General, Bombay, as well as to abolish one appointment of Inspector of Registration and Stamps on a salary of Rs. 200 per mensem; to appoint one Sub-Registrar for the City of Bombay in lieu of the present Registrar and Joint Sub-Registrar of that City, and to discontinue the payment to the Sub-Registrars of Shikárpur and Hyderabad of the salary of Rs. 50 disbursed to those officers in addition to receipts from fees, on the present incumbents' vacating the appointments.

Note by the Departmental Member.

Mufasal Registrars.

All Registrars except the Registrar of Bombay are Registrars *ex-officio, i. e.* by reason of some other gazetted appointment which they hold.

Inspectors.

The Inspectors are appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Inspector General. They are invariably selected on account of having a close practical acquaintance with the work of Registration, *i. e.* they have either been employed as Sub-Registrars or in the office of the Inspector General. The best man available for the place is chosen and this principle generally underlies all first appointments and promotions in the Registration Department.

Bombay District.

The Registrar and Joint Sub-Registrar are appointed by Government, the Inspector General submitting his recommendations how the posts should be filled.

Presidency Proper (Mufasal).

No person is eligible to be appointed as a Registry Kárkun, or as a Sub-Registrar, who has not passed the 6th Vernacular Standard, save in special cases where lengthened service of an exceptionally good quality as Kárkun to a Sub-Registrar is held to allow of a man not in possession of an educational certificate of the above nature being appointed a Sub-Registrar. First appointments as Registry Kárkuns and as Sub-Registrars are as far as possible given to Village Registrars under the Dekkan Relief Act, or Sub-Registrars' Kárkuns. A Registry Clerk (*i. e.* clerk to a Registrar) being required to possess a good knowledge of English must possess the 5th Anglo-Vernacular Standard Certificate. Registrars appoint their own clerks and kárkuns. The appointments to Sub-Registrarships rest with Government, the nominations to such appointments alternating between the Registrar of the District and the Inspector General, *i. e.* every second nomination in a District falls to the Registrar and every other to the Inspector General.

The conditions of service in this Department in regard to pay, pension and furlough are those of the Uncovenanted Service generally, one officer only (*i. e.* the Inspector General) being under what are known as the favorable leave rules.

Knowledge of Registration work, knowledge of the Stamp Act, close application and methodical habits of business are the requirements—technical, professional, and personal (in addition of course to probity)—which are required of those employed in the Registration Department.

All classes of the community seek employment in the Registration Department though the bulk of the applicants are Bráhmans. For natural intelligence, or perhaps I should say brain-power, I would, judging from my experience, arrange the classes in the following order:—

(1) Hindus, (2) Pársis, (3) Eurasians, (4) Native Christians, and (5) Mahomedans.

The existing organization of the Department is shown in the following form.

The Inspectors of Village Registration, 4 in number, are appointed by the Inspector General, the selection being invariably made from among the clerks of Registrars or from the rank of the Sub-Registrars. A knowledge of English as well as the vernacular is required of a Village Registration Inspector, and also, of course, a thorough knowledge of Registration,

Bombay.

Registration.

Sec. II.

Existing Organization and Constitution of the Registration Department, Bombay and Sind.

1	2	3				4						
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments, or of appointments not being purely clerical of salaries of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and other appointments amongst classes and grades with rate of pay attached to each.				Number of appointments in each Class or Grade now held by—						
			Salary.	Average monthly Commission.	Total.	1 Europeans not domiciled in India.	2 Europeans domiciled in India.	3 Eurasians.	4 Natives of India. (a) Hindus.	(b) Mahomedans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
			Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.							
Registration.	1	Inspector General of Registration and Stamps.	2,000	...	2,000 0 0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	Head Assistant to the Inspector General of Registration and Stamps.	150	...	150 0 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Accountant do. ...	100	...	100 0 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Inspector of Registration and Stamps, 2nd Division.	250	...	250 0 0	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	1	Do. 1st Division ..	175	...	175 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	1	Do. 3rd Division...	150	...	150 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	1	Do. in Sind ...	150	...	150 0 0	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	1	Registrar of Bombay	350	...	350 0 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Ahmedabad District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Ahmedabad.	75	124 2 2	199 2 2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Dhandhuka ...	75	68 2 5	143 2 5	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Viramgám ...	50	77 8 8	127 8 8	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Broach District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Broach.	75	79 3 1	154 3 1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Kaira District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Nadiád.	75	79 11 11	154 11 11	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. A'nand ...	75	44 4 5	119 4 5	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Surat District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Surat ..	75	114 15 6	189 15 6	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Olpád ...	75	62 1 6	137 1 6	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Kolába District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Alibág...	60	52 5 0	112 5 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Thána District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Sálsette.	75	52 2 5	127 2 5	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Ahmednagar District.										
	1	District Inspector of Village Registration Offices.	100	...	100 0 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Sub-Registrar of Ahmednagar.	75	46 0 10	121 0 10	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Khándesh District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Erandol.	75	65 5 9	140 5 9	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Sávda ...	75	78 12 0	153 12 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Amalner ...	50	56 9 11	106 9 11	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Poona District.										
	1	District Inspector of Village Registration Offices.	100	...	100 0 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Sub-Registrar of Haveli.	100	159 13 11	259 13 11	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Junnar ...	75	46 14 1	121 14 1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Sátára District.										
	1	District Inspector of Village Registration Offices	100	..	100 0 0	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Sub-Registrar of Sátára .	75	37 1 2	112 1 2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Sholápur District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Sholápur.	75	38 3 8	113 3 8	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	1	Do. Bársi ...	75	27 4 3	102 4 3	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Belgaum District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Chikodi.	50	53 4 7	103 4 7	..	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Kánara District.										
	1	Sub-Registrar of Kumta...	75	25 5 8	100 5 8	...	...	...	...	...	1	1

T. M. FILGATE,
Inspector General of Registration and Stamps.

Prosecutions from 1877-78 to 1886-87 for offences against or arising out of the Registration Law.

Year.	Number of Persons prosecuted.	Nature of Charge.	Number of Persons acquitted.	Number of Persons convicted.	Remarks.
1877-78	13	3 False statement ... ... 8 False personation ... ... 2 Forgery	3	10	
	*2	Forgery	...	...	*Absconded before they were arrested.
1878-79	17	5 False personation ... ... 12 Abetting the above offence ...	2	15	
1879-80	33	30 False personation ... ... 1 False statement ... ... 2 Refusing to answer questions put by legal authority	4	6	Case against 2 was abandoned and 21 awaited the disposal of the charges against them.
1880-81	10	1 Forging a deed ... ... 9 False personation	†25	6	†Includes 21 persons who awaited disposal of the charges against them during 1879-80.
1881-82	10	1 Disobedience to a summons to appear before the Sub-Registrar of Viramgaum ... ... 5 False statement ... ... 3 False personation ... ... 1 Abetting false personation	3	7	
1882-83	8	7 False personation ... ... 1 False statement	2	6	
1883-84	13	6 False statement ... ... 4 False personation ... ... 2 Perjury ... ... ‡1 Forgery	1	11	‡Case was pending at the close of the year.
1884-85	29	29 False personation or abetment of such.	13	16	
	§2	.....	...	...	§ Absconded before their arrest.
1885-86	‖29	False personation and false evidence...	11	15	‖2 absconded and case against one was pending.
1886-87	11	7 False personation	6	5	

BOMBAY.

Registration.

Section III.—Sittings at Bombay.

WITNESS No. I.—*22nd July 1887.*

Examination of ATMARAM TRIMBAK, Esq., Registrar, Bombay, and former Head Assistant in the Registration office.

The *President.*

I was Head Assistant for nearly twenty-four years; before that I had been a clerk in the Revenue Department. The Registration Department of this Presidency is principally officered by Natives. Sub-Registrars are appointed by the Government, the Registrar of the District or Circle and the Inspector General nominating alternately. Rs. 75 is the salary of the first grade Sub-Registrarships, besides 20 per cent. commission on collections. The Sub-Registrars begin on Rs. 12; they are prohibited from undertaking other duties. Formerly some Sub-Registrars had licences to sell stamps but very few of them availed themselves of this privilege. There is only one Registrar in the Presidency who is not so *ex-officio*—the Registrar of Bombay. The other Registrars are the Collectors of Districts (18), the 1st Assistant Political Agent at Aden and the Cantonment Magistrate at Deesa. The Government appoints the Inspectors on the recommendation of the Inspector General, the appointments being mostly made from Sub-Registrars or clerks in the Inspector General's office. Outsiders are not brought into the Department. First appointments are not made by competitive examination. Sub-Registrars on first appointment are submitted to a probation of one year in the course of which they have to pass the Departmental examination in the Registration and Stamps Acts and Rules and Orders.

Do you get fairly well educated men to enter the Department?—Some are so. A Registration Officer must know the Registration Law and the Stamp Act, and must have a knowledge of deeds to distinguish between them; also a knowledge of the Court Fees' Act.

Must he not have some idea of the legal effect of a document besides its class?—Yes.

What class of men accept these appointments as a rule?—Hindus; Kárkuns and Clerks.

Where do they perform their duties?—In public offices.

Have the public access to a Registration Office except on business?—Yes.

Had you at any time in this Presidency a system of registration by Judicial Officers?—For a short period Subordinate Judges were Registrars and the Assistant Judges Inspectors; but that system was abandoned because the Assistant Judges had not sufficient time to go into the districts and do the work of inspection.

How often are your Inspectors bound to inspect the work of Sub-Registrars?—Once a year. They have also to examine stamp accounts and the stock of the treasury sub-depôts, and also Court-fees stamps in the record rooms of Judges and other offices.

Can you account for the fact that though there are so many Mahomedan Sub-Registrars in Sind there are no Mahomedan Sub-Registrars in Bombay proper?—There are so few applicants. We try our best to give appointments to Mahomedans and sometimes we give them the preference.

The Hon'ble Khán Bahádur *Kázi Sháhbudin.*

Why do you give them the preference?—Because we think that every caste ought to be represented in the Department, and as Mahomedans are in the minority we give them the preference sometimes.

Do you get applications for employment from Eurasians?—There is only one Eurasian in the Department. There are three or four Pársis. Pársis sometimes object to take the lower appointments.

The *President.*

Most of these Sub-Registries are in country stations?—Yes.

You do not find many Pársis in the villages?—No.

Have you anything to add?—I wish to say, that so long as the Registrars are District Magistrates and in respect of registration work are subordinate to the Inspector General, the Inspector General must be a European in order to avoid friction; but I see no reason why the whole Registration Department should not be officered by Natives. The registration work interferes with the proper duties of a Collector; and, on the other hand, no questions of law arise which exceed in difficulty those which are daily disposed of by experienced Subordinate Judges; and experienced officers in the Registration Department are familiar with most of the difficulties which arise in construing the Acts. Moreover, recourse to the Courts is easy either in Stamp or Registration questions.

WITNESS No. II.—*22nd July 1887.*

Examination of KHÁN SÁHEB RATANJI SHAPURJI CHOTYA, Esq., Inspector, Gujarát Circle.

The *President.*

I entered the Department in 1874. My first appointment was as Sub-Registrar on Rs 75 with commission to about the same amount. Two districts have lately been added to my circle. Out of some thirty-three or thirty-four offices in my circle proper I examine on an average twenty-six a year. The amount of work in my division is

as great as in any other. Some of our largest offices are in Gujarát.

How long does it take to examine an office like that at Ahmedabad?—Sometimes fifteen, sometimes three or four days. Collectors are *ex-officio* Registrars.

How is it that there are so few Pársi Sub-Registrars?—I think the number is fairly proportionate to the population.

Is the pay sufficient to attract them?—Rs. 12 to begin with is not very attractive to a Pársi.

Do Pársis like living in out-of-the-way places?—They do; we have lots of Pársis in the Mufasal; perhaps as many or more than in Bombay.

Do they take to agriculture?—They have been doing so of late.

What percentage have?—Between four or five per cent, excluding those whose ancestors have been occupied in agricultural pursuits. There are lots of Pársis in Surat and Broach who have been agriculturists from time immemorial.

The majority of Pársis take to trade?—Yes.

Do you approve of the present system of appointing to the Department?—I should like to see now and then well educated outsiders brought in on Rs. 50 or 60 to begin with. Sub-Registrars in the first class are called upon to use a little more intelligence than Sub-Registrars in out-of-the-way stations. They get more complicated deeds to register.

Are the men who enter the Department on Rs. 12, as a rule able to distinguish between the nature and legal effect of different classes of deeds?—Fortunately they only get ordinary kinds of deeds, such as leases, mortgages.

Is it not sometimes difficult to say whether a document is a lease or a mortgage?—Sometimes.

A lease with a premium, and a mortgage, in India are not dissimilar?—No.

Are there many complaints of fraud in this Presidency?—Since we have had a Registration Department we hear of very few cases of fraud in connection with documents that have been registered.

Have you anything to add?—Yes (*reads*). The first suggestion I have to make is that Collectors should no longer be burdened with the duties of Registrars. They have so many important and multifarious duties to perform that they cannot reasonably be expected to do justice to this portion of their work, and, as a matter of fact, it can safely be asserted that they have not the time to take much interest in registration work. The functions of Registrars should be delegated to other officers; and, without the necessity of creating new posts, I believe, they can best be entrusted to Divisional Inspectors. Each Inspector should be invested with the powers of a Registrar of the several districts comprised within his charge. The Inspectors being on the move for the greater part of the year, the power of hearing appeals from Sub-Registrars' order of refusal should be given to the Subordinate Judge having jurisdiction. Again the post of the Inspector General is not one of the scheduled appointments and has been held by an Uncovenanted officer for more than the last fifteen years, and will in all likelihood be held by another Uncovenanted officer, either a European or Native, on the retirement of the present incumbent. The arrangement therefore under which the highest executive officer of a District is in subordination to an Uncovenanted officer, either a Native or European, appears to many an anomaly and as calculated to lead to frequent conflicts of opinions and, perhaps, disagreeable results. So long as Collectors are also Registrars it is not very likely that a Native will be appointed to be the head administrative officer of the Registration Department. The reasons are obvious and need not be dilated upon. On the other hand, Inspectors are in complete touch with the subordinate *personnel* as well as thoroughly acquainted with the working of the Department, and with the minutest details of their duties. To me they seem to be eminently calculated to perform the duties of District Registrars. On these grounds, I think, Collectors may be relieved of this part of their work. The proposed arrangement would also doubtless improve the present *status* of the Inspectors; in itself, I believe, a desirable object.

I have hinted at the possibility of a Native being in future appointed as the Head of the Department. I am not aware of any reason why a Native of intelligence possessing the requisite qualifications should not be appointed to the post. I am sure Natives of education and sound principles will be found free from local prejudices, and I see no reasons for thinking that as a rule they will abuse their patronage. In addition to administrative abilities, the holder of the post is required to travel over large area; from my personal experience I can say that Natives will be found able and willing to move about as occasion may require. I myself have travelled some fifty miles in a day on ordinary cart roads.

As with the exception of the present Head of the Department all its officers are Natives, I think it is not necessary to speak as to the comparative merits and claims of Europeans and Natives serving in the Registration Department. But if Europeans are to be employed at any future time in the subordinate ranks of the Service, they should be required to possess a thorough knowledge of the vernacular of the District to which they may be posted.

The salaries of the Sub-Registrars and Inspectors should be so arranged as to make it worth a competent Sub-Registrar's while to take an Inspector's post. In the case of Inspectors the salaries again should be so graduated as that the senior officer in that grade may aspire to the highest post in the Department. Such an arrangement will induce really competent and honest men to take service in the Department and will, I think, ultimately prove of great benefit to the public as well as to the officers employed.

The limit of age and other qualifications required of a candidate at the time of his entry in this Department should, as at present, be the

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same as for candidates seeking employments in other Departments. So long, however, as Kárkuns of Sub-Registrars are paid from out of the latters' percentage allowance and are not treated as Government servants, the usual medical certificate as well as the 25 years' limit should be dispensed with on their appointment to Sub-Registrarships.

Sub-Registrars should for obvious reasons be transferred from one post to another, after, say, five years' service. Likewise the Kárkuns employed by them should not be allowed to remain at one place for more than the above period.

The *status* of the kárkuns requires improvement. They should now be treated as Government servants in all respects, and their salaries be defrayed from the General Revenue, a corresponding deduction being made in the rate of commission now granted to Sub-Registrars. This will undoubtedly have the effect of creating a new pension charge, but the advantages of securing a better class of men with prospects of promotion and pension will more than counterbalance the extra expenditure.

Promotion in the Department is very slow if it is not stagnant. It is a question, therefore, whether a system of personal allowances to deserving officers, to be granted at the discretion of the Head of the Department, should not be introduced until such time as a new organisation takes place. In the Railway Police, allowances of this kind, I understand, are granted to Police Inspectors. Exchanges and promotions of deserving officers in this Department should be made to posts in other Departments that do not require technical knowledge to any extent, when they can be effected without injustice to the employés of those Departments.

WITNESS No. III.—*29th July 1887.*

Examination of RATIRAM MOTIRAM, ESQ., Sub-Registrar.

The *President.*

Ratiram Motiram, Esq.

I entered the Department in 1871 as Head Clerk to the Registrar of Broach on Rs. 50. I am now getting Rs. 75 besides 20 per cent. on collections.

Have you any views to bring forward as to the recruitment of the Department?—The present system works very well. Promotions are made according to seniority and merit.

Is it desirable to bring in men in a higher grade than they now enter it and on higher initial pay?—No. I wish however to say, that in comparison to their responsible duties, Sub-Registrars are very lowly paid.

Sittings at Poona.

WITNESS No. IV.—*22nd July 1887.*

Examination of H. A. LUXA, ESQ., Senior Inspector in the Registration Department.

The *President.*

H. A. Luxa, Esq.

The present organization of the Department is satisfactory, except that the salaries of the 4th and 5th grades of Sub-Registrars are inadequate. The men are as a class sufficiently competent, but they are discontented with their salaries.

SIND.

Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

The supervision of Registration in Sind is committed to the First Assistant Commissioner as Branch Inspector General, of whose salary (₹1,200) ₹200 are debited to Registration. The present incumbent is a European. It is intended to abolish the appointment of Branch Inspector General and to transfer the duties to the Inspector General of Registration for the Presidency of Bombay.

The Registrars, who are all *ex-officio*, are the three Collectors of the Sind Districts and the Deputy Commissioners of the Upper Sind Frontier and of Thar and Parkar.

There is an Inspector, a Mahomedan, on ₹150.

The Deputy Collector of Karáchi is a Sub-Registrar *ex-officio*. He receives no remuneration for registration work. Fifteen other officers are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars and receive 50 per cent. of the receipts. There are 30 Special Sub-Registrars. Those of Hyderabad and Shikarpur receive salaries of ₹50 each in addition to commission at the rate of 20 per cent. on fees realized; their average emoluments are about ₹120. The other Special Sub-Registrars receive only commission and in no case do the average emoluments amount to ₹100. Among the Special Sub-Registrars Mahomedans preponderate.

The Branch Inspector General explains that, when the Department was first created, appointments were sought for only by Mahomedans because in the time of the Mirs registration was carried on by the Kázis, but that now Hindus and Mahomedans are equally desirous of employment as Registering officers, and that there is in his judgment no marked difference in their capacity for the duties.

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SIND.
Registration.

Section II.—Note by the Branch Inspector General.

Sind. — Registration. — Section II.

1. There are no special rules as to admission to the Department; the admissions are few and any suitable applicant is accepted. The higher appointments are all *ex-officio* and subordinate to the appointments in the Revenue Department to which they are attached.

2. The conditions of service in regard to pay, pension, &c., in respect to the Inspector of Registration and the Sub-Registrars of Hyderabad and Shikárpur are the same as in other branches of the Revenue Department. Both the salary and fees of these two Sub-Registrars count towards pension. The fees of other Sub-Registrars do not count towards pension.

3. The only requirements of the Department are the passing of the educational test and the examination in the Registration Act and Rules. No special professional attainments are essential.

4. When the Department was first formed the appointments were sought for only by Mahomedans, because this class of people alone performed this kind of work in the Mirs' time and were called Kázis. Now the appointments are sought for both by Mahomedans and Hindus, but the number of Mahomedans preponderates as shown in the accompanying statement. There is no marked difference in the capacity of Hindus and Mahomedans for the duties, which are of a routine nature.

5. The required statement is attached. It will be seen that neither the Branch Inspector General nor any of the District Registrars draws any salary as such.

Existing organization and constitution of the Registration Department in Sind.

1	2	3	4						
			Number of appointments in each class or grade now held by—						
			1	2	3	4 Natives of India.			
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments and of appointments not being purely clerical of salaries of ₹100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and of other appointments mentioned in Column 2 amongst classes and grades, with rate of pay attached to each.	Europeans not domiciled in India.	Europeans domiciled in India.	Eurasians.	(a) Hindus.	(b) Mahomedans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
Registration.	53	1 Branch Inspector General of Registration and Stamps	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		5 District Registrars	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
		1 Inspector of Registration and Stamps, pay ₹150	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
		2 Special Sub-Registrars, pay ₹50 and 20 per cent. of the receipts.	...	...	...	4	26	...	30
		28 Special Sub-Registrars in receipt of 50 per cent. commission.							
		15 Sub-Registrars *ex-officio* in receipt of 50 per cent. of receipts.	...	...	...	13	3	...	16
		1 Sub-Registrar of Karáchi receives no remuneration for registration work.							

MADRAS.
Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

The Registration Department in the Madras Presidency exhibits several features worthy of notice. In the first place, from the creation of the Department in 1865 up to the present day, only one European officer has been appointed to it—Colonel Macdonald, the first Inspector General, who organized it. His successors have all been Natives in the Statutory sense. In the next place it was the policy of the first Inspector General to recruit for the staff only men of education, and at present there are very few officers in the Department who have not passed at least the Matriculation Examination. In the third place more care has been taken in Madras to secure efficiency in the officers by insisting on probation and a sufficient departmental examination; and, in the fourth place, the salaries are relatively lower than those paid in almost any other Department. The sanctioned staff consists of an Inspector General, twenty-two Special Registrars, three hundred and twenty-two Special Sub-Registrars, sixteen *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars and twenty Probationers. The Inspector General receives a salary of R1,500. The present incumbent of the office is a Eurasian, who, before his appointment, had risen to the highest Uncovenanted post in the Secretariat. The salary of the Inspector General is to be reduced to R1,250 on the occasion of the next vacancy.

22 Special Registrars.	1 on	R500:	with a commission on fees limited to R100.
	1 on	„ 300	with a commission on fees limited to R50.
	3 on	„ 250	
	4 on	„ 200	
	6 on	„ 175	
	6 on	„ 150	
	1 on	„ 100	
316 Special Sub-Registrars.	10 on	„ 75	
	10 on	„ 60	
	20 on	„ 50	
	20 on	„ 45	
	30 on	„ 40	
	30 on	„ 35	
	196 on	„ 30	

The emoluments of the Special Registrars and the Special Sub-Registrars are shown in the table in the margin, which is extracted from the note of the Departmental member.*

The *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars are remunerated by a commission of 20 per cent. on the fees received by them. At stations where the fees are small a stipend of R7 is allowed in addition. Of the clerks some are paid fixed salaries, but the majority are remunerated by commission. The salaries paid in the districts average from R12 to R30, those paid in the Presidency town from R25 to R50. The commission allowed to clerks in the offices of special Registration officers is fixed at 19 per cent. on collections, and in the offices of *ex-officio* Registration officers at 24 per cent. Payment by commission gives no claim to pension, and, except under special orders, no claim to leave allowances. It appears from a return laid before the Sub-Committee that, excluding the Inspector General, out of 365 officers and probationers now in the Department, only 8 are Eurasians and the rest are Natives of Asiatic parentage; that of the latter 36 are Mahomedans or Moplahs, 18 are Native Christians and 303 are Hindus; and that, of the Hindus, 217 are Brahmans.

In April 1866, the Government of Madras published a rule that, ordinarily, no person should be appointed Special Sub-Registrar of a large town who had not passed the F. A. Examination and undergone a probationary course in the General Registry Office and a departmental examination. The Inspector General, however, issued a notice which went beyond this order, and intimated that no one who was not a Graduate or had passed the F.A. or Matriculation examination would be nominated for appointment to a Sub-Registrarship, when it was determined to appoint a non-official to such an office. This notice attracted the attention of Government and evoked an Order, No. 1794, dated 14th November 1866, in which it was declared that all persons who had passed in English the tests prescribed for certain offices or for a District Court Pleadership, should also be eligible for appointment, and that, in making nominations, regard was to be had to the previous services and personal character of the candidates as well as to the place occupied by them in the examination list.

It nevertheless appears from the Inspector General's Report of 1883-84 that, out of the then staff of 260 Special Registrars and Sub-Registrars, only five persons had not passed the Matriculation examination; that one was a Master of Arts, three were Bachelors of Law as well as of Arts, 113 were Bachelors of Arts, 102 had passed the First in Arts Examination, and 36 were Matriculates. Of twenty Probationers, at the date of this enquiry, three were B.A.s and 17 F.A.s or Matriculates.

* Under the head of Sub-Registrars there is a small discrepancy in the figures which cannot be reconciled.

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Section I.

The course of training prescribed for Probationers is as follows:—

The Probationer is required for ten days to peruse the following:—

Act III of 1877.	The Limitation Act.	Such portions only as deal with registration.
Act XII of 1879.	The Court Fees Act.	
Table of Fees.	The Civil Procedure Code.	
The Stamp Act.	The Evidence Act.	
Rules, Circular Orders and Proceedings.	The Transfer of Property Act.	
	The Easement Act.	

The Probationer is ordered to make notes of any doubts or difficulties which occur to him and to produce them when called upon. He is also required to make an alphabetical index to the Rules. He is then sent to a specified Registration office to observe the whole process of registration. He is required to read every document presented for registration during two days and to furnish the Sub-Registrar or Registrar with a memorandum stating whether the document is or is not properly stamped, naming the Article in the Schedule to the Stamp Act under which the duty (if any) is leviable, and adding whether the document is or is not admissible to registration, and, if not, on what grounds. For the next three days he is required to perform the work of the registering clerk, to copy and index every document handed to him, and to make a note of the quantity of work done by him that he may know how much his own clerks should get through.

He is next ordered to devote six days to the examination of the Indexes I and II in the office and to point out any errors or omissions in them. He must afterwards examine some of the Registering officers' returns, and his memorandum of remarks is compared with that prepared by the clerks. He has then to undergo a written and *viva voce* examination in the Acts, Rules and Orders above mentioned. For the written examination three papers of questions are set—one on the Registration Act, the Rules framed under it and Departmental Orders; another on the Stamp Act with the Rules and Orders relating to it; and the third on the other Acts above specified. The examination is conducted by the Registrar or Sub-Registrar as the case may be, who values the Probationer's answers and submits them with his opinion to the Inspector General. Finally, the Probationer is required to spend two days in copying, docketing, indexing, directing, &c., letters and noting the modes in which the office records, registers and indexes are arranged. The course of training and the subjects of the examination suggest the technical qualifications which, combined with some knowledge of legal phraseology and of the forms and effect of legal documents, are requisite for efficient service in the Registration Department.

It appears from a return obtained from the Inspector General, that, during a period of three years, from 1882-83 to 1885-86, one Sub-Registrar had charged and misappropriated sums in excess of the legal fees; that another had absconded with some money and the seal of his office; that a third was suspected of having connived at false personation and was degraded to the post of copying clerk; and that the case of a fourth, charged with having altered a deed of gift into a will, was under inquiry. During the same period clerks in the Department were in three instances suspected of having tampered with documents. It appears from another report, that, during the five years ending with 1886-87, 110 prosecutions were instituted by officers of the Department, and 46 by private persons, for offences alleged to have been committed in connection with the registration of documents.

The Government of Madras expresses its opinion that the Department, as it is at present, is exceedingly well organized and is worked with great efficiency and economy.

Only one witness appeared for examination before the Sub-Committee, but the Inspector General produced the written opinions of five Registrars whose attendance could not have been secured without inconvenience.

Mr. Hari Ráo, the Chief Registrar of the city of Madras, stated that he had originally been Headmaster in a vernacular school, but that, having passed the special tests in civil and criminal law prescribed as qualifications for certain posts in the public service, he had obtained an appointment in the Registration Department, in 1866, as Sub-Registrar.

Mr. Hari Ráo expressed his opinion that no person should be appointed to any post in the Department, including the Inspector Generalship, unless he is thoroughly acquainted with the vernaculars of the Presidency; and that, consequently, it is expedient to appoint to it only Natives and not Europeans or Eurasians unless they possess this qualification. He deprecated the investment of Registering officers with magisterial or other powers which would interfere with their duties as Registrars, and was of opinion that the registration of fifteen documents daily would occupy the whole time of a Registering officer if the work were properly done. He considered that the regulations for the admission of officers to the Department call for no amendment, except that the time has arrived when only graduates or those who have passed the F.A. examination should be admitted, and that even Mahomedans should be required to pass the Matriculation examination. He, however, advocated an exception to these restrictions in favour of Head Clerks in Registrars' offices who have for five years rendered satisfactory service. He considered that every officer appointed to the Department should undertake to remain in it for five years; that no Probationer should be appointed permanently to a Sub-Registrar's post until after an actual service of about six months; that no Sub-Registrar should be appointed to a Registrarship even temporarily until he has served for five years as a Registering officer; that the Inspector General's appointment should be conferred on a Registrar; that the remuneration of Registering officers should not be less than it is at present, and that it should be received partly in the form of salary and partly by a commission on the fees realized. He, however, recommended that fixed salaries should be paid to clerks in Registration offices in order that they might obtain the same privileges in respect of leave allowances and

pension as are conceded to clerks in other Departments; and he expressed his conviction that in no other manner could corruption be eliminated from the Department.

Mr. R. Subramanyam Aiyar, the Registrar of Tinnevelly, called attention to the success achieved by the Department which is almost purely manned by Native officers of whom no less than 259 are either Graduates or Matriculates. He complained that the expectations raised on the re-organization in 1882 have hardly been realized, and that several of the Registrars enjoy emoluments not larger than they received when they entered the Department as Sub-Registrars and were allowed commission without limit; and he mentioned that other Registrars who entered the Department when the commission was limited to ₹300 are in much the same position. He stated that owing to the limitation of the emoluments of the 1st Grade of Sub-Registrars to ₹125 and the slowness of promotion in consequence of the paucity of appointments in the higher grades which deprives the Sub-Registrars of any hope of promotion beyond the 1st grade of their class, discontent prevails in this Department.

He recommended that admission to the Department should be restricted to persons who have at least passed the Matriculation examination; that promotions should, as heretofore, be regulated by seniority, some consideration being shown also to merit; and that officers should ordinarily not be transferred out of their districts so that they may acquire a knowledge of the people and may be saved the expense attendant on a change of residence. He advocated the following measures to improve the prospects of the officers of the Department:—

(1) That they should be remunerated wholly by salaries and not in part by a commission, from which they derive no benefit if they take leave, and which is left out of account in computing pensions; (2) that the number of appointments of Registrars and of Sub-Registrars in the higher grades should be increased; (3) that service in the Department prior to 1875 should be allowed to count for pension, and that special pensions should be offered to induce the senior men to retire; (4) that the Presidency should be divided into six divisions, and Inspectors appointed—a reform which would secure that the offices now inspected by the Inspector General and the Registrar would come more frequently under inspection; (5) that the officers of the Department should receive promotion by appointment to posts in other Departments, such as Tahsildárships, Deputy Collectorships and Sub-Judgeships; and that lists of deserving and duly qualified officers of the Department should be forwarded by Government to Revenue and Judicial authorities with instructions to appoint them to their respective Departments when vacancies occur.

Mr. M. Ramaswami Aiyar, Registrar of Madura, made the following recommendations:—

(1) That the number of appointments in the superior grades of the Sub-Registrar class should be increased; (2) that service as Sub-Registrar in any grade for ten years should entitle an officer to promotion to the next higher grade notwithstanding there might be no vacancy in that grade; (3) that, subject to any examination which might be prescribed, service as a District Registrar should be considered as qualifying for the posts of Munsif, Sub-Judge, Tahsildár and Deputy Collector; and (4) that subject to the same conditions, service as a Sub-Registrar should be considered as qualifying for the post of Munsif, Tahsildár and Sub-Magistrate.

Mr. A. Subbarama Aiyar, Registrar of Nellore, observed that as all the offices in the Department are now filled by Natives of India, there could be no complaint on that score. He urged that the office of Inspector General should be held in future, as it is now, by a Native of India who should possess a thorough knowledge of all the vernaculars of the Presidency. He observed that, so far as regarded Registrars, the present system of classifying the officers in grades, of making their salaries personal, and of awarding promotion according to seniority, gives universal satisfaction; but he recommended that payment by commission should be altogether abolished, and that the scale of graded salaries shown in the margin should be introduced; that the recruitment of Registrars should be made by the promotion of a Sub-Registrar of the 1st grade of proved merit and high character to the lowest grade of Registrar; that service as Registrar should be regarded as qualifying for appointment to the posts of District Munsif and Deputy Collector, provided the candidate had passed the prescribed tests; and that the posts of Registrar should be reserved for Natives and Eurasians who had passed an examination in the vernaculars of the district.

No. in grade.	Grade.	Salary.
		₹
1	1st	500
2	2nd	350
3	3rd	300
4	4th	250
5	5th	200
6	6th	175
1	7th	125

With regard to Sub-Registrars, he recommended that fixed salaries should be substituted for part payment by commission, and that the numbers of posts in the higher grades should be increased as shown in the margin. He suggested that in every Registration district, except the city of Madras and the Nilgiris, there should be one Sub-Registrar of each grade from the 7th to the 3rd, so that in the event of a vacancy in any grade of that class a Sub-Registrar of the next lower grade in the district might be appointed to it. In order to retain Graduates in the Department, he considered it desirable that the salaries of Sub-Registrars should be local and not personal, so that highly educated men might not be disappointed by the slowness of promotion. He would admit no one to the Department who had not passed the F.A. Examination, taking up as his optional language the vernacular of the district in which he sought employment, or who had not passed the translation test in that vernacular and the Registration test; and he was of opinion that no concession should be made as regards examinations and a knowledge of the vernacular whether in the case of

No. in grade.	Grade.	Salary.
		₹
20	1st	100
20	2nd	75
30	3rd	60
30	4th	50
40	5th	45
40	6th	40
50	7th	35
90	8th	30

a Mahomedan, a domiciled European or a Eurasian. He would allow no Sub-Registrar to exercise the powers of a Munsif or Magistrate or a Deputy Collector unless he had passed the tests prescribed for such offices, and he would suffer no officer to employ himself in Magisterial work during the hours prescribed for his proper duties of registration.

Pointing out that the advantages of registration depended much on the honesty and accuracy of the clerks who prepare the record, he strongly deprecated the payment of the clerical staff by fees and advocated their entertainment on fixed salaries which would entitle them to leave, acting allowances and pensions. He proposed that clerks of the 1st and 2nd grade should be eligible for promotion to Sub-Registrarships if they passed the prescribed examinations, and that preference should be given to them over probationary Sub-Registrars.

Mr. A. Peryaswami Mudaliyar, Registrar of Coimbatore, approved of the existing rules for recruiting the Department, but complained of the want of encouragement for men after they had entered the Department; and, to remove this, he proposed that Government should occasionally select officers of the Department for appointment to Deputy Collectorships as it did officers of the Police and Accounts Departments. He also urged that, inasmuch as officers in the Department are now all men of good education, service for a certain period as Registration officers should entitle such of the officers as had passed the prescribed tests to the appointments of District Munsif, Sub-Magistrate and Táluka Sheristadárs. He contrasted the position of clerks in the Department of whom the highest paid receive only R30 a month, while others receive only commission, with that of the clerical staff in other Departments, and insisted that their emoluments should be increased out of the surplus revenue earned by the Department.

Mr. A. S. Venkata Rao, Registrar of South Kánara, stated that he had entered the public service as an Auditor in the office of the Board of Revenue in 1871, and in 1873 had been transferred to the Revenue Department, and that for upwards of eight years he had held the appointment of Registrar. He pointed out that from the creation of the Department in 1865 it has been the policy of Government to recruit its officers from the educated classes; and he argued that the success which had been attained by it afforded a good practical illustration that high educational qualifications constituted the best guarantee for the moral and general efficiency of service. He approved of the rules which prescribe a period of probation and require officers appointed to the Department to pass an examination in subjects which bear upon their duties. He admitted that some of the less educated men had failed to show themselves efficient, and, although he maintained that some instances of failure were inevitable, he recommended that in the future no one should be appointed who had not passed the F.A. Examination. He stated that men are at first attracted to the Department by the emoluments and by reason of the leisure it affords, but that in time they became discontented by reason of the monotony of their occupation and the slowness of promotion. To remove the former cause of discontent he recommended that efficient and duly qualified officers should be invested with powers to try civil suits up to the value of, say, R100 and criminal cases cognizable by a Magistrate of the third class; that they should receive these cases by transfer from the files of the District Munsif and Táluka Sub-Magistrate, the number of the cases being limited, so that their disposal would occasion no interruption of the legitimate work of the office. By this means, he contended, the files of officers now overworked would be lightened, the public would be benefited by the prompt disposal of their cases, and Registration officers would be trained for appointments in the Judicial Service. To relieve the block in promotion, he recommended that the Revenue and Judicial Departments should be authorized and required to bestow yearly a small number of appointments on Registrars or Sub-Registrars who had served for a certain number of years, and he stated that he looked to these measures to stimulate emulation, and improve the tone and increase the efficiency of the Department.

Mr. Venkata Rao attributed the preponderance of the Brahman element to the circumstance that the staff had been so largely recruited from University men. He mentioned that their ignorance of the vernaculars stands in the way of the employment of Mahomedans and Eurasians, and that the former owe their failure to find employment also to their tardiness in taking advantage of the educational advantages offered; and he asserted that no evil had resulted from the preponderance of Brahmans, and that it affords no reasonable ground of complaint to other classes of the community as it had not been secured unfairly.

He advocated the abolition of the system of payment by commission at least in the case of Registrars, a revision of the scale of pay and grades, a provision for more frequent inspection, the division of some of the larger charges into two Registration Districts and the improvement of the pay of the clerical staff.

Mr. Sundara Ramaiya, Registrar of Kistna, observed that the question as to the efficiency of Native agency could receive but one answer so far as the Registration Department is concerned, for with the single exception of one Inspector General, Colonel Macdonald, it had been fully manned by Natives (whether Asiatic or Statutory) from the time of its creation, and its efficiency had been universally admitted; that as there is no clashing of Native and foreign interests, no feeling of irritation and discontent existed on that score; and that the only grievance that can be urged is the slowness of promotion, which has arisen from natural causes and cannot be at once remedied.

He allowed that the rare occurrence of vacancies in consequence of the majority of the officers being young men is prejudicial to the efficiency of the Department as many of the best Sub-Registrars are leaving it, and he mentioned that to his knowledge four young men, of whom three were Graduates, had left it within the last four or five years, two for the Revenue service and two for the Bar.

MADRAS.

Registration.

Section II.—Letter from the Government of Madras forwarding the Note by Departmental Member.

LETTER—TO THE PRESIDENT, SUB-COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

In reply to Mr. Daukes' letter No. 166, dated 17th March 1887, making certain enquiries with regard to the working of the Registration Department in this Presidency, I am directed to forward a copy of a letter, with enclosures, from the Inspector General of Registration, and to state that His Excellency the Governor in Council has nothing to add to the information therein contained beyond an expression of his opinion that the Department, as it at present exists, is exceedingly well organized and worked with great economy and efficiency.

Ootacamund, 15th April 1887.

Note by the Departmental Member.

From G. HAMNETT, Esq., Inspector General of Registration, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 26th March 1887, No. 978-G.

With reference to endorsement, Public Department, dated the 25th instant, on a letter from the Secretary to the Public Service Commission, No. 166, dated the 17th idem, I have the honor to report, with reference to the first of the four heads under which information is required, that in the Registration Rules notified in the Supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 27th April 1866, the following regulation was adopted regarding the admission of persons into the Registration Department:—

"As a general rule, no person shall be specially appointed to the office of a Sub-Registrar of a large town who has not passed the first examination in Arts, and gone through a probationary course and departmental examination in the general registry office."

2. In their order, Judicial, dated the 14th November 1866, No. 1794, the Government observed as follows:—

"According to Major Macdonald's notices, candidates must be Graduates of the Madras University; or, failing them, those who have passed the First in Arts or the Matriculation Examination are invariably proposed for Sub-Registrars where it is determined to appoint non-officials to these offices. The Government do not perceive why the field of selection should be so narrowed, and those who annually pass the higher revenue and judicial test examinations, and who may be supposed to possess in a higher degree the other qualifications requisite for an office such as that under notice, should be shut out. The Governor in Council therefore directs that, in future, the appointments in question be thrown open also to all who have successfully passed in English the examinations prescribed for the offices named in the margin, as well as to Graduates of the University, and that in making a selection for the approval of Government, regard be had to the previous services and personal character of the candidates, as well as the place occupied in the examination list."

1. Principal Sadar Amin.
2. District Munsif.
3. Pleader in Zilla Court.
4. Deputy Collector and Magistrate.
5. Tahsildár and Sub-Magistrate.

3. The above regulation and orders are still followed in the selection of candidates; and all appointments of Registrars and Sub-Registrars which are recommended by the Inspector General are approved by His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor and published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

4. The second head; the conditions of service in the Department in regard to pay, pension, and leave, are the same as those observed in the Uncovenanted Service generally, with the exception that clerks who are remunerated by commission are not allowed any pension, nor are they admitted to the other privileges enjoyed by Uncovenanted servants.

Vide paragraph 7 of my letter to the Government, G. No. 220, dated 14th January 1885; G.O., Judicial, dated 19th March 1886, No. 721.

5. The third head; the technical requirements of the Department and the professional attainments essential for efficient service are set forth in the enclosed printed papers marked A and B.

6. The fourth head; the classes of the community admitted into the Department. In paragraph 4 of my letter to the Government, G. No. 1898, dated 14th August 1886, I wrote—

"It will be seen that the Bráhmans, who are the most intelligent and most persevering class, have the lion's share of the best appointments, but since I joined this Department on the 5th November 1880, it has been my aim to reduce the number of Bráhmans and to allow all classes to have a fair share of the appointments in the Department."

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Sec. II.

In paragraph 38 of the Administration Report for 1883-84, I wrote—

"The educational tests passed by Registrars and Sub-Registrars are—

Master of Arts	1
Bachelor of Arts and Laws	3
Bachelor of Arts	113
First in Arts	102
Matriculates	36
General and special tests	3
Men exempted from passing any test	2
Total ...	260

These educational tests, however, require to be supplemented by some knowledge and experience of official work, which the better-educated men acquire more rapidly than others. The Matriculates with a few exceptions, do not answer so well as the Graduates and Under-graduates. The probationers who are selected from these Graduates, and of whom there are 20 now, receive a practical training in the duties which they have to perform, and are better qualified to take charge of a sub-registration district than men fresh from the University."

In paragraph 37 of my report for 1882-83, I wrote—

"The different classes of officers employed in the Department were—

East Indians	6
Bráhmans—	
Aiyangars and Charie	22
Ráos and Acharis	46
Aiyars and Sástris	75
Gujarátis	2
Kshatryás	1
Vayisiás	5
Sudras—	
Nayudus	7
Mudaliyárs	12
Pillays	8
Chettis	4
Nairs	19
Mahomedans (17) and Moplas (2)	19
Thiers	2
Valluvas	2
Native Christians	17
	240

There was not a single European. The work of the Department requires a thorough knowledge of one of the vernaculars, which domiciled Europeans and East Indians do not possess. It would be a great step towards the amelioration of the condition of both classes, who fall within the category of Natives of India, if the Goverment were pleased to direct that from and after a certain date no domiciled European or East Indian shall be admitted into the public service in any capacity unless he shall have passed in one of the vernaculars in general use in the Presidency, *viz.*, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam or Kánarese."

7. The fifth head; the organization and constitution of the Department is given in the form annexed as prescribed by the Public Service Commission. Promotion is, as a rule, made according to seniority and standing in the Service, and no man is passed over unless he has been tried and found disqualified.

Existing organization and constitution of the Registration Department, Madras Presidency.

1	2	3	4						
			Number of Appointments in each Class or Grade now held by—						
						Natives of India.			
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments or of appointments not being purely clerical of salaries of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and the other appointments amongst classes and grades with rate of pay attached to each.	1 Europeans not domiciled in India.	2 Europeans domiciled in India.	3 Eurasians.	(a) Hindus.	(b) Mahomedans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
Registration.	22	1. Special Registar 1st Grade on Rs. 500. ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		1. Do. do. 2nd Grade on Rs. 300. ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		3. Do. do. 3rd Grade on Rs. 250 ...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
		4. Do. do. 4th Grade on Rs. 200 ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	4
		6. Do. do. 5th Grade on Rs. 175 ...	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
		6. Do. do. 6th Grade on Rs. 150 ...	...	...	..	6	...	...	6
		1. Do. do. 7th Grade on Rs. 100 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
		1. Managar, B. A.—Rs. 200	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		1. Head Accountant—Rs. 120	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
		Total ...	...	...	1	23	...	...	24

N. B.—Besides pay, the Registrar of Madras gets a commission not exceeding Rs. 100 a month, and the Mufassal Registrars a commission not exceeding Rs. 50 each.

Madras, July 1887.

GEO. HAMNETT,
Inspector General of Registration.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

The Registration staff consists at present of :—

1 *Inspector General* on a salary of Rs. 1,500.

22 *Special Registrars*... ...
- 1 on Rs. 500 with a commission not exceeding Rs. 100.
- 1 on „ 300
- 3 on „ 250
- 4 on „ 200
- 6 on „ 175
- 6 on „ 150
- 1 on „ 100

} with a commission not exceeding Rs. 50.

316 *Special Sub.-Registrars* ...
- 10 on Rs. 75
- 10 on „ 60
- 20 on „ 50
- 20 on „ 45
- 30 on „ 40
- 30 on „ 35
- 196 on „ 30

16 *Ex-officio Sub-Registrars*, who are paid by a commission of 20 per cent. on the collections made by them. At three stations the remuneration has been fixed at Rs. 7 a month, as it was thought that the commission would not be sufficiently remunerative.

20 *Probationary Sub-Registrars*.—The B.A.'s receive Rs. 20 each a month and F.A.'s and others Rs. 15 each a month.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

In Registration Offices.—The clerks some are paid by fixed salaries but majority by the commission. The salaries paid in the provinces vary from Rs. 12 to Rs. 30; at the Presidency-town from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. The commission given to clerks is fixed at 19 per cent. for all special offices, and 24 per cent. for all *ex-officio* offices, no clerk receiving less than Rs. 10 per mensem.

The following scale shows the number of clerks allowed to a Registration Office according to income :—

Class.	Income.	Staff.
I.	... 500 Rs.	... 6 Clerks.
II.	... 375 „	... 5 „
III.	... 300 „	... 4 „
IV.	... 250 „	... 3 „
V.	... 225 „	... 3 „
VI.	... 150 „	... 2 „
VII.	... Less than 150 Rs.	... 1 „

Statement of the different Classes of Special Registrars, Sub-Registrars and Probationers employed in the Madras Presidency.

Classes.	Registrars.	Sub-Registrars.	Probationers.	Total.	REMARKS.
East Indians	1	7	...	8	
Bráhmans—					
Aiyangars and Charris	1	28	1	30	
Raos and Acharis	3	58	5	66	
Aiyahs, Aiyars and Sástris	13	101	5	119	
Gujaratis	...	2	...	2	
Kshatriyas	...	3	...	3	
Vayisias...	...	10	...	10	
Sudras—					
Nayudus	...	10	1	11	
Mudaliyárs	2	17	2	21	
Pillays	1	10	1	12	
Chettis	...	3	...	3	
Lallahs	...	1	...	1	
Nairs	1	18	...	19	
Mahomedans (34) and Moplas (2)... ...	...	32	4	36	
Thiers	...	4	...	4	
Valluvas	...	2	...	2	
Native Christians	...	17	1	18	
Total ...	22	323	20	365	

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Sec. II.

APPENDIX A.

Applications For Sub-Registrarship.

Name.			
Caste.		Religion.	
Age.		Address.	
Native District.			
Nature and salary of appointment, if any, now held.			
Father's name and employment.			
Place in last University Examination (B.A. or F.A.) and year.			
Vernaculars with which the applicant is acquainted.			
Special Tests passed, and page of Gazette in which noticed.			
Whether willing to take the post of Probationer or Sub-Registrar, and in which particular District.			

Note.—It must be understood that if a candidate enters the public service he must go to the Station where his services are required. He cannot be allowed to pick and choose the Station.

The pay of a Probationer, if not a Graduate, is Rs. 15 } per mensem.
Do. do. , if a Graduate, is Rs. 20 }

The Service counts for pension.

The pay of a Sub-Registrar varies from Rs. 30 to Rs. 75 per mensen *plus* commission not exceeding Rs. 50.

Copies of Testimonials.

STATION

Date 188 . } Signature

APPENDIX B.

SUB-REGISTRARS ON PROBATION.

Sub-Registrars undergoing probation will go through the following course.

2. Ten days will be devoted to the perusal of the following papers :—

Act III of 1877.
Act XII of 1879.
Table of Fees.
The Stamp Act of 1879.
Rules, Circular Orders and Proceedings.
The Limitation Act. } Only such portions as
The Court Fees Act. } affect Registration.
The Civil Procedure Code. } Only such portions as affect Registration.
The Evidence Act. }
The Transfer of Property Act, No. IV of 1882.
The Indian Easement Act, No. V of 1882.

3. The candidate will, as he proceeds, make notes of any doubts or difficulties which suggest themselves to him, and if they are still unsolved, will give them in when called on to do so. He will also prepare an alphabetical Index to the Rules during the course of his persual of them.

4. He will spend two days in the office of the Sub-Registrar at Madras or in that of the Registrar of the District, as the case may be, to which he may be posted, observing the whole process of registration and examining the registers, indexes and correspondence. He will be required to read every instrument which is presented during these two days and will furnish the Sub-Registrar, or Registrar, with a memorandum stating whether the document is, or is not, properly stamped, naming the article under which it is, or should be, stamped, and adding whether the document is, or is not, admissible to registration, and, if the latter, on what grounds.

5. The next three days will be spent by the candidate in performing the duty of a registering clerk in the Sub-Registrar's or Registrar's office. He will copy and index every document handed over to him by the Sub-Registrar or Registrar, and will, at the end of each day, make a note of the quantity of work done by him, to enable him to judge hereafter how much work his own clerks should get through in any given time.

6. The candidate will devote six days to examining Indexes I and II of the Sub-Registrar or Registrar, and to preparing memoranda pointing out errors or omissions in them.

7. He will examine some of the Sub-Registrar's or Registrar's returns, and his memorandum of remarks will be compared with that prepared by the clerk.

8. He will after this undergo his examination, which will be both in writing and *vivâ voce;* after which the work done by him during the previous days will be looked over.

9. Two days will be spent in copying, docketing, indexing, directing, weighing and stamping letters, and observing the modes in which the office records, registers, indexes, &c., are arranged.

10. For the written examination three papers of questions should be set, one on the Registration Act, the rules framed under it and the circular orders; the second on the Stamp Act, the rules and circular orders relating to it; and the third on the other Acts named in paragraph 2.

11. The answers to the written questions will be submitted to the Inspector General with the valuation and opinion of the Registrar.

Offences committed by Officers of the Registration Department.

1882-83.

(i.) The head and second clerks of the Sub-Registry office, Manargudi, Tanjore, were strongly suspected by the Magistracy of forgery in Book I, and were dismissed from service.

(ii.) The Sub-Registrar of Chinnamanur (Uttamapalaiyam) collected fees in excess and misappropriated the excess. He was dismissed the Service.

1883-84.

(i.) A forgery was committed in the Nellore Registrar's office, in one of the volumes of Book I, by a clerk in the office. The forger was dismissed, and the Registrar was required to resign his post.

(ii.)The entries in Book I of the Sub-Registry offices at Amalapur and Peddapuram were tampered with. The clerk at Amalapur was removed from the Department and the clerk at Peddapuram transferred from the station to another.

(iii.) In Tinnevelly, the head clerk of the Sub-Registrar's office at Satur was suspected of having been implicated in the forgery of a registered document; but the case of forgery was thrown out by the Deputy Magistrate.

(iv.) The Sub-Registrar of Siruguppa in the Bellary District absconded with the seal of the office and some money.

1885-86.

(i.) The Sub-Registrar of Manantoddy and his clerk were suspected of having connived at false personation. The Sub-Registrar was degraded to the post of a copying clerk.* The clerk died.

(ii.) The late Sub-Registrar of Valangiman has been suspected of breach of trust and of having fraudulently altered a gift into a will. His case is pending before the Government.

Madras, 1st August 1887.

*He has since left the Department.

Statement of Prosecutions instituted for Offences committed against the Registration Law (Act III of 1877) during the five years ending with 1886-87.

Years.	Forgery.		False Personation.		False Statement.		False Statement and False Personation, Forgery and False Personation.		Collecting Fees in excess.	Total.		Remarks.
	Instituted by Registration Officers.	Undertaken by private individuals.	Instituted by Registration Officers.	Undertaken by private individuals.	Instituted by Registration Officers.	Undertaken by private individuals.	Instituted by Registration Officers.	Undertaken by private individuals.	Instituted by Registration Officers.	Instituted by Registration Officers.	Undertaken by private individuals.	
1882-83 ...	2	4	16	3	4	...	3	2	1	26	9	
1883-84 ...	4	3	15	...	2	...	8	4	...	29	7	
1884-85 ...	...	3	18	3	...	...	3	3	...	21	9	
1885-86 ...	1	1	11	7	7	1	1	3	...	20	12	
1886-87 ..	1	1	10	5	...	...	3	3	...	14	9	
Total ...	8	12	70	18	13	1	18	15	1	110	46	
Average ...	1⅗	2⅖	14	3⅗	2⅗	⅕	3⅗	3	⅕	22	9⅕	

GEO. HAMNETT,
Inspector General of Registration.

Office of Inspector General of Registration, Madras, 9th August 1887.

MADRAS.

Registration.

Section III.—Sittings at Madras.

WITNESS No. I.—*5th August 1887.*

Examination of HARI RAO, ESQ., Chief Registrar, Madras.

The *President.*

I receive the highest salary in the Department except that of the Inspector General. I joined the Department in 1866 as Sub-Registrar of Trichinopoly. I had previously been Headmaster of a vernacular school. I knew a little law and had passed the special test examinations in civil and criminal law.

Have you any observations to make regarding the constitution of the Department?—I wish to say that all officers, including the head of the Department, should be familiar with the vernaculars of the Presidency, and that, this being so, it is advisable to appoint none but Natives to this Department, unless Europeans and Eurasians are found to possess this qualification as well as the other requisites—such as a knowledge of deeds and of the Stamp and Registration laws. I wish also to say that Registrars ought not to be invested with magisterial or other powers which would interfere with their duties as Registrars, as they have already enough to do.

In how many of the registration offices in this Presidency are as many as twenty deeds registered daily?—In about 100 out of 354 offices. It has been authoritatively stated by a Military officer, who was Inspector General, that not more than fifteen documents can be satisfactorily registered in a day, and that also is my own experience.

Are there any offices in which sixty and seventy deeds are registered in a day?—I know of none. Registration is not such light work as it is supposed to be.

What has a Registering officer to do beyond satisfying himself that the deed has been duly executed and is presented by the executant or by a person properly authorized, and that it is duly stamped?—He has to read through the instrument and see that it bears a proper stamp.

Have you anything further to say?—The present regulations of our Department as to admission therein are very sound and satisfactory and call for no amendment except that the time has now clearly arrived when a limit must be placed on the admission of Graduates and Under-graduates only therein. I am however in favour of the Head Clerks of Registrars' offices being also promoted to Sub-Registrarships after five years' satisfactory service in their posts as such Head Clerks, as experience is experience and cannot be bought in a day and is as good an essential qualification for success and efficiency in a Registering officer as his scholastic attainments. Sub-Registrars' remuneration as well as Registrars' should never be less than what it is at present, and no Sub-Registrar should be made a Registrar even temporarily without at least five years' service as a Registering officer. None but such Sub-Registrars should be appointed Registrars. Europeans should not be employed in this Department in any capacity, as a very intimate knowledge of the vernacular languages is indispensably required for efficient service therein. Just as an experienced Sub-Registrar would make a far better Registrar than an outsider, it seems to me that an experienced Registrar would make a much better Inspector General of Registration than a similar outsider who has no insight whatever in the nature of this work. Each Registering officer should be required to bind himself to serve at least five years in the Department on his entering it.

The Registering officer's remuneration should always be, as it is at present, fixed partly by salary and partly by a commission on the fees realized by him.

In the interests of the public convenience and of the Department in general there should always be special agency only in the Department to work the Act thoroughly, and no other office should be amalgamated with that of a Registering officer, as the work of both the offices would surely suffer very seriously thereby.

Even Mahomedans employed in the Department should be Matriculates at least. Probationary Sub-Registrars should not be appointed to any permanent Sub-Registrarship without a previous service of at least six months in their posts. The Registration Clerks should be paid fixed salaries as in other Departments.

The scale of such salaries as I would also recommend is that submitted to Government only very recently by the Inspector General. Corruption will prevail in the Department until this is done and the position of the Clerks is raised a little and made more responsible than it is now, and they should at once be justly and very deservedly allowed all the privileges as regards leave, pension, &c., that their brethren in other Departments are so fully enjoying.

Travelling allowances at the former rates should also be fully allowed to Registering officers for their attendance at private residences as a check against the pretensions of several ordinary persons claiming to be entitled to such a privilege, to the serious inconvenience and expense, &c., of the Registering officer.

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MADRAS.

Registration.

Section IV.—Written evidence.

Note by M. R. Ry. SUBRAMANIYAM AIYAR, B.A., 3rd Grade Registrar, Tinnevelly.

This is the Department in the Presidency in which the system of appointing Graduates and Under-graduates largely has been followed during successive administrations, till we now find that, out of a total of 330 Registration officers in the Presidency there are no less than 259 Gradutaes and Matriculates. Experience has proved the system to be thoroughly successful. By industry, devotion to duty and honesty they have justified expectations. In paragraph 33 of the report for 1872-73 Colonel Macdonald says that "the special Sub-Registrars are, as a body, a highly promising set of young men." The Honorable V. Ramiengar expressed a similar opinion of Registration officers, in paragraph 32 of his report for 1877-78. And what has been even more encouraging is that the India Government itself has thought fit to recognise the Registration Department of this Presidency as standing foremost among the several provinces of British India.

The good work done by Registration officers is also testified to by the fact of their services being generally utilized as Municipal Councillors, Local Board Members, and Honorary Magistrates and also as Notaries Public, in all which capacities they have acquitted themselves well enough to secure the approbation of Collectors, and also of Government in some cases.

Such earnest labours on the part of the officers have not failed to receive tangible recognition from the Head of the Department from time to time. The salary scheme was first introduced in 1875, with a view chiefly to make service in the Department pensionable. The official Registrars were replaced by special officers in 1879, and some of the senior Sub-Registrars were promoted as Registrars in that arrangement. Instead of the old scheme of local salaries, a system of personal salaries was introduced in 1882, which has worked as a great boon to the officers concerned. In the latest revision of salaries the position of Registrars has been generally improved, although there is still room for improvement. And last, but not least, the Inspector General succeeded in getting Government to appoint one of the senior Registrars in Provinces as Registrar of Madras, when it was generally feared that that important place would be conferred upon an outsider. The position of the clerks, too, has been considerably improved of late. Their position is now more secure, their appointment and removal being subject to the approval of the Inspector General and sanction. The clerks on the commission system are now, for the first time, made entitled to a moiety of commission during their absence on leave (*vide* Proceedings, No. 1494, dated 29th July 1881), a concession which cannot be too highly valued by the clerks. A scheme of fixed salaries for these clerks has also been already submitted to Government, which, if sanctioned, will make their position as good as that of similar clerks in other Departments.

Notwithstanding these and other changes that have from time to time been introduced, with a view to improving the position of the officers and clerks in the Department, I am of opinion that, as is very natural with a growing Department, the circumstances of the officers and conditions of service in the Department are still such as to call for some further changes calculated to improve the prospects as well as the position of the officers.

The first point to which I would call attention is the prospects of Registration officers, which at present are generally regarded as very far from encouraging.

Although the salary scheme of 1882 gave some increase to the pay of Registrars, especially in the lower grades, it did not confer advantages, in any way commensurate with the expectations justified by the circumstances of their first entertainment in the Department. The present emoluments of 8 of the District Registrars of nearly 20 years' standing are about the same as they were when those officers were Sub-Registrars, and when they were entitled to receive a commission up to the maximum limit of Rs. 300. A similar remark applies to 7 other Registrars, with the difference that their service in the Department is not quite so long. Of the remaining 7 Registrars, only 2, namely, those in the 1st and the 2nd grades, are now in receipt of income in excess of what it was when they began service in the Department as Sub-Registrars; but even this increase in the case of the officer in the 2nd grade is little more than nominal, being only Rs. 50 in excess of the maximum commission drawn by him as Sub-Registrar. In the case of the other Registrars, there is very little to be spoken of as a hardship, since all these men are, comparatively speaking, juniors, who began service in the Department at or about the time when the maximum emoluments of a Sub-Registrar were limited to Rs. 200, and who perhaps form part of the body of individuals who have little or no ground of complaint in the Department on the score of slow promotion, although in the cry of "an insuperable block in promotion" they are as loud as the rest.

The position of Sub-Registrars is equally far from encouraging, that of the first class Sub-Registrars being indeed one of retrogression. When the Department was first organized, Sub-

Registrars were allowed to draw commission at 50 per cent. on all fees collected by them. Shortly afterwards, the commission was limited to a maximum of Rs. 300; and in 1875 their total maximum emoluments were fixed at Rs. 200. Then again the scheme of 1882 fixed the highest emoluments of a first class Sub-Registrar at Rs. 125. Under this arrangement 6 of the senior Sub-Registrars, who entered the Department before 1869, seem to be the greatest sufferers. In very much the same predicament are almost all the other Sub-Registrars in the first two grades, who have served in the Department for periods ranging between 17 and 12 years. There is again another large number of Sub-Registrars, namely, those in the 3rd grade, who have served about 12 years in the Department, and whose present income, pay and commission together, is in the majority of cases less than what it was when under the old rules the maximum commission was Rs. 100. The next four grades contain among them all the remaining Sub-Registrars, numbering about 270. These are all men who entered the Department within the last decade; and most of them were immediately benefited by the salary scheme of 1882. Thus it will be seen that while most of the Registrars are no better off in regard to emoluments than they were when they were Sub-Registrars, several of the senior Sub-Registrars are in a worse position than that occupied by them before the re-organisation.

Beyond the few vacancies created a few years ago by the appointment of Special Registrars, which gave relief to some of the senior officers in the Department, there has been no opportunity of giving them a lift. Vacancies are very few and far-between, and the present constitution of the Department offers very little prospects of promotion to its officers. In the case of the Registrars promotion is altogether out of the question. As for the Sub-Registrars there is very little hope for them, at any rate not for 15 years to come, when the senior Registrars will be obliged to retire on account of old age. But even this consideration is no consolation to the senior Sub-Registrars, inasmuch as many of them having entered the Public Service at about the same time as those Registrars, will have grown old enough to retire too. The junior Sub-Registrars, some of whom are likely to be benefited by that event, will surely grow tired of waiting for such a long period; and it is extremely doubtful whether even they, after such long service, would be satisfied with the promotion which that event is likely to give them. Some few of the junior Sub-Registrars will of course be so fortunate as to be made Registrars at once. And others will get lifts as Sub-Registrar. Considering the probable number of vacancies that the expected retirements would cause, the prospects of the Sub-Registrars below the 3rd grade would seem to be no better than now. It is a question whether several of the Sub-Registrars now in the last grade will get into the next higher grade before their time of retirement arrives.

It is this stagnation, this insuperable block in promotion, that appears to have created a feeling of discontent in the Department. This feeling probably accounts for the resignations of Sub-Registrars desiring to enter other Departments of the service, or to practise as Vakils. But for the very close and strict supervision, which has characterised the administration of the Department, this feeling of discontent might, perhaps, have resulted in the required amount of attention not being paid by the officers to their work. The good work done by them, and evidenced by the growing popularity and the annually increasing success of the Department, is due also to the fact that they still entertain hopes that their Inspector General will not allow his *régime* to close without doing something substantial to ameliorate the condition of his faithful subordinates.

It will be admitted that a feeling of discontent is not quite conducive to the well-being of the Department. The work of registering documents, though simple in itself, carries with it an amount of responsibility which cannot be made light of, nor entrusted to persons who are not thoroughly honest. So great is the trust reposed in the Sub-Registrar that, if he happens to be a man ever so unscrupulous, a wide door will be opened for fraud. A feeling of discontent, grounded on the absence of prospects for the future, is, therefore, likely to prove prejudicial to the high standard of morality, which a position of so much trust and responsibility requires as an essential qualification in its holder. No less an authority than the Government of India thought it necessary to impress upon the local Governments the fact that good results could not be expected "unless the officers employed be assigned competent salaries, and the staff be organized in such a way as to offer sufficient prospects of promotion and advancement." They further observe that "in no other way can zealous, efficient and contented men be attracted to the Department" (*vide* their review of the registration reports of the several provinces for the year 1882-83, page 18). This object could not be expected to be secured so long as prospects in the Department continue to be what they are, and so long as good men hesitate to enter the Department in consequence. It seems, therefore, necessary to initiate measures calculated to place the Department in the same position as other branches of the Public Service, with regard not only to salaries, leave, pension and other similar privileges, but also with regard to prospects of promotion.

The Department is at present manned entirely by Natives of the country, and it has secured the best opinions in regard to efficiency and other requisites of a good administration.* The present system of recruiting the Department from Natives of the country may, therefore, be advantageously continued.

* G. O. dated 14th September 1883, No. 2447, Judicial.

With regard to the qualifications of the persons to be appointed as Registering officers, I am of the humble opinion that the system hitherto adopted, of appointing graduates and undergraduates as a rule, may very well be continued. The Honorable Mr. Justice Mattusámi Aiyar, in his evidence before the Public Service Commission, says that "Colonel Macdonald tried the system of appointing graduates and matriculates in the Registration Department, and it has proved a success."

The Honorable Mr. P. P. Hutchins, too, in his evidence, speaks approvingly of that system. He seems to believe that practically none but graduates are entertained in the Department. It is observed in para. 38 of the administration report for 1883-84 that the better educated men acquire the required knowledge and experience of official work more rapidly than others. The high educational qualifications of a candidate for employment may generally be accepted as a guarantee for good conduct also. Looking also to the fact that there is no dearth of graduates now, I think it may be made a standing rule* of selection that none but graduates shall be eligible for appointment as Sub-Registrar; and I would not concede more in favor of the backward races like the Mahomedans than that they should at least be undergraduates of the University. The appointment of men of a lower standard of education is not desirable, since experience has shown, as observed in para. 38 of the same administration report, that they do not answer so well as graduates and matriculates, and since they fail to command the respect due to the office. In addition to the educational qualifications of candidates regard must be had to their personal character as observed by Government in G. O. No. 1631, dated 13th December 1870, containing instructions in the matter. That it is the intention of Government that proper men should be appointed Sub-Registrars is evident from the fact that when the Department was first organised, none below the rank of Tahsildárs and Sub-Magistrates were, as a rule, appointed Sub-Registrars in this Presidency, while in Bengal, North-West Provinces and Bombay such high officials as Covenanted Civilians, Principal Sadar Amins, and District Munsifs were appointed as Subordinate or Deputy Registrars (*vide* paras. 39, 40, and 41 of the Madras Administration Report for 1867-68).

*G. O. dated 21st August 1884, No. 2105, Judicial.

In my humble opinion it seems to be no longer necessary to retain the system of payment partly by commission. That system was introduced tentatively, and at a time when registration, being a novel organization, had to be encouraged and advanced by giving registering officers a personal interest in the business; but now that registration has been fairly well started and established, and there are so many checks upon the neglect or apathy of the officers, in the form of an interested and enlightened public, there seems to be no necessity for retaining a system of remuneration by commission, which is not found necessary in any other branch of the Public Service, and which subjects the officers in this Department to no small sacrifices in the matter of leave and pension. I know instances in which Sub-Registrars have declined to take leave, even when they were so ill as to be unable to do their duties satisfactorily, simply because the leave, though of the nature known as "privilege leave," would deprive them of the whole of their commission, which in the great majority of cases is a great deal more than their fixed salary. Such abstinence may seem to be so much gain to the Government, but it cannot fail to impair the efficiency of the service in the long run, and may even lead to early retirements on pension, subjecting the Department to additional expenditure. The system, therefore, of payment by commission may, in my humble opinion, be abandoned, and a better scale of fixed salaries may be adopted with advantage to Government as well as to the officers concerned.

I shall be stating nothing new when I say that seniority, tempered by selection on account of merit and good service, should be the principle of promotion in all grades in the Department. Vacancies in the grade of Registrar may well continue to be filled up by promoting the senior Sub-Registrars, although in some cases the appointment of a junior Sub-Registrar may be unavoidable when the senior Sub-Registrars do not happen to be acquainted with the vernacular of the districts in which the vacancies occur.

Transfers.—Although a single list of officers should be maintained for the whole Presidency for purposes of promotion from grade to grade, I believe it will be advantageous if the transfer of Sub-Registrars be not generally made out of the district, except on public grounds, or to meet the wishes of the officer concerned. There would be no difficulty in carrying out this rule, since one of the reforms of 1882 has made the salaries of Sub-Registrars personal instead of local. The advantage of the rule is that, while on the one hand it facilitates registration by reason of the Sub-Registrar being acquainted with the particular nature of the people of the district in which he serves, it saves on the other hand a good deal of expense and journeying to the Sub-Registrar.

Departmental remedies.—The number of Registrars and Sub-Registrars in the higher grades may be increased. This will give immediate relief to a few of the Registrars and a good number of Sub-Registrars. The necessity for doing so in the case of the latter officers has been already recognised and brought to the notice of Government more than once in the annual reports on this Department.

The service of Registrars and Sub-Registrars, prior to the introduction of the salary scheme of 1875, may be made to count for pension. This will create openings for the junior officers by inducing some of the senior officers in the Department to retire earlier than they would otherwise do. It may be said that the provisions of the Pension Code do not admit of such concessions being allowed. But what is really required is, not that their case should be judged according to the existing Pension Rules, but that those rules should be slightly relaxed with the sanction of competent authority so as to meet the hard case of the officers in question. That such relaxation is not altogether unprecedented appears from G. O. No. 631, dated 20th October 1879, Pension Department, which deals with the case of an Inspector of Police, who was allowed to count towards pension his service rendered on Devastanam Establishments (*vide* also G. O. No. 530, dated 19th November 1878). And I venture to think that anybody who sees the peculiar constitution of the Registration Department and the difficulties besetting the timely retirement

of its officers, will not be slow to admit that there is a speciality in the case of these officers, justifying a relaxation of the Pension Rules.

Some years ago the senior Civilians were induced to make room for their discontented juniors by being allowed short service pensions. Some such course may be adopted in this Department also with some very wholesome results.

The appointment of Inspectors of Registration Offices is sanctioned in the Act, and the necessity for creating those appointments seems to demand early attention. It will not be denied that the successful working of the Department depends greatly on the amount of supervision exercised over the work done by the subordinate officers. Frequent local inspection is necessary, and when it is thorough, is far more effectual for discovering and correcting the errors and irregularities of an office than any other mode of supervision that can be adopted. I have no doubt that a great deal of the success that has attended the Registration Department of this Presidency, of late years, is due to frequent inspections. The Registrar's inspection is now more thorough and systematic than ever before, and the Inspector General's visits even to the remotest parts of the Presidency, instead of being very distant as they once used to be, come off almost every other year, if not every year, so much so that Sub-Registrars are always on the alert. I am afraid that with the daily increasing work of a growing Department the Inspector General, whoever he may be, will not find time to do as much travelling work in the midst of so much administration work falling to the lot of the Head of a Department. I am, therefore, of the humble opinion that the time has now arrived for dividing the Presidency into 6 Divisional Circles, and appointing an Inspector for each, as in the case of the Educational and the Public Works Departments. This arrangement will have the effect of improving the prospects of several Registration officers by creating an opening for 6 of the senior Registrars.

Vacancies may be caused by allowing Sub-Registrars to appear for the Special Test Examinations, and to enter other Departments of the Public Service. It occasioned no little vexation to me when, some time back, some ill-informed correspondent complained in one of the Madras papers that the Inspector General was opposed to Sub-Registrars passing such examinations and seeking employment elsewhere. As far as I can see, no charge could have been more illiberal. G. O. No. 1802, dated 13th December 1880, Public, contains ample evidence to show that, on the contrary, the Inspector General has, in spite of the Accountant General's strong protest, fought out the question so as to induce the Government to declare the advisability of allowing Registration officers to qualify themselves for higher service in other Departments. Again, in the matter of Sub-Registrars seeking employment in other Departments, my own experience shows that in the only two cases in this District in which permission was sought for, it was most readily granted. The two Sub-Registrars in this District to whom the required permission was granted long ago, do not seem to be very sanguine of having their object accomplished.

Inter-departmental Remedies.—The object aimed at by this remedy is the issue of an order by Government that a fixed number of deserving and qualified men in the Department shall, from time to time, be recommended by the Inspector General for being drafted for superior service in other Departments, or to the like effect. The orders of Government seem to be necessary, as the arrangement would require the co-operation of officers of other Departments. That Registration officers are considered competent to undertake responsible duties in other Departments will be clear from the evidence of the Honorable P. P. Hutchins, who says that some persons in the Registration Department may be constituted Magistrates of Tálukas, and that he has no doubt that "many of them will make very good Magistrates"; and there are a number of registering officers who have passed the special tests. There seems to be, therefore, nothing strange or unreasonable about this suggestion. It will also be one of the means of removing the block in promotion, which is so much felt by the officers of this Department. There is no reason to apprehend that the proposal would drain the Department of its very best men; for I think that it would be an incentive to every one of the members in the service to exert his utmost by a careful, regular and upright discharge of his legitimate duties to win, each for himself, the best opinions of his superiors. And the whole Department will, more than ever, be a perfect machinery of activity and usefulness.

Now that the Government is pleased to promote to the Civil Service men who have given proof of their "merit and ability" by actual service in the Uncovenanted ranks, it seems to be but fair that the Registration Department should be looked into, with a view to find out whether there is none among the Registrars deserving of the distinction.

If an officer of the Educational Department can be found fit all at once to discharge the onerous duties of the First Assistant in the office of the Board of Revenue, it may be hoped that there will at least be one or two District Registrars fit for promotion as Deputy Collectors or Subordinate Judges.

Among Sub-Registrars, too, there are men competent to fill responsible positions outside the Department. The Honorable H. E. Stokes, in his evidence before the Public Service Commission, says: "I would allow graduates qualified by special tests to enter at once as Deputy Tahsildárs, and I would reserve for them a proportion of appointments, say, every other vacancy for the present in each district. A year's service as Deputy Tahsildár should qualify for Tahsildár." When a graduate qualified by the special tests is deemed worthy of so much consideration, I think it will be granted that a Sub-Registrar graduate similarly qualified is not less deserving of it. As a matter of fact several Sub-Registrars have passed the required special tests also.

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There is a rule in the Police Department declaring Inspectors of Police eligible for the posts of Tahsildár and Deputy Collector after a certain period of service in the department. It will be a great encouragement if a similar rule could be introduced in the Registration Department also.

In short, the whole proposal resolves itself into this: that the Government should be pleased, in consideration of the peculiar constitution of the Department, to pass orders that a list of a limited number of graduate Registrars and Sub-Registrars who are duly qualified by the special tests and who, by continued good service in the Department, have proved themselves, in the opinion of the Inspector General, worthy of promotion to higher service in other Departments, should be submitted by him from time to time, and that the Revenue and Judicial Departments should be instructed to admit them into their ranks as opportunities occur.

Note by M. R. Ry. S. RAMASWAMI AIYAR, Registrar, 3rd Grade, Madura.

M. R. Ry. S. Ramaswami Aiyar.

There should be a greater number of appointments in the superior grades of Sub-Registrarships.

Service of a Sub-Registrar in any one grade for ten years should entitle an officer to promotion to the next higher grade even though there may not be a vacancy at the time.

Subject to any examination test as may be prescribed on that behalf, service as District Registrar should be considered as qualifying service for the posts of Munsifs and Subordinate Judges and Tahsildárs and Deputy Collectors.

Subject to the same condition, service as Sub-Registrar should be considered qualifying service for Munsifs, Sub-Magistrates and Tahsildárs.

Note by M. R. Ry. A. SUBBARAMA AIYAR, Registrar of Nellore, 4th Grade.

M. R. Ry. A. Subbarama, Aiyar.

So far as the Presidency is concerned, all the offices are now filled by Natives. There can be therefore no complaint under this head. The office of Inspector General should continue to be held by a Native of India, belonging to the Uncovenanted Service, possessing a thorough knowledge of all the vernaculars of this Presidency.

As regards Registrars, the present system of classifying them into a number of grades, of making their salaries personal and of giving promotion to them according to their seniority of service in the Department, is looked upon with universal satisfaction. The commission system may altogether be abolished and an increased scale of pay, such as the following, may be introduced:—

Grade.	Salaries.	Number.
1st	500	1
2nd	350	2
3rd	300	3
4th	250	4
5th	200	5
6th	175	6
7th	125	1

On the occurrence of a vacancy in the post of Registrar, a Sub-Registrar of the first grade of proved merit and high moral character should alone be appointed to the last grade. Service in the capacity of Registrar should be considered as qualifying for the post of District Munsif and Deputy Collector, provided the incumbent has passed the prescribed special tests. This will enable Registrars to get into the higher offices in the executive and judicial branches of the Uncovenanted Service. All appointments of Registrars should be held by Natives and Eurasians who have passed in the vernaculars of the District.

In the case of Sub-Registrars also, the system of remunerating them partly by commission should be dispensed with and the Sub-Registrars classified into 8 grades with the following salaries:—

Grade.	Salary.	Number.
1st	100	20
2nd	75	20
3rd	60	30
4th	50	30
5th	45	40
6th	40	40
7th	35	50
8th	30	90

In every District, with the exception of Madras and Nilgiris, there should be at least one Sub-Registrar of each grade from the 7th to the 3rd, so that in the event of a vacancy occurring in a higher grade Sub-Registrarship, a Sub-Registrar of the next lower grade in the same District may be promoted to it. The salaries in the case of Sub-Registrars should be local and not personal as under the latter system it takes a number of years for a Sub-Registrar to get an increase of Rs. 5, and as graduates who enter this Department get soon discontented for want of promotion and leave this for other Departments where they can rise to higher situations in the same District much sooner. No one should be appointed Sub-Registrar or Probationary Sub-Registrar who has not passed the F.A. Examination taking up as his optional language the vernacular of the District in which he seeks employment or has passed the Translation test in that vernacular and the Registration test in which an examination should be held every year along with other special

tests. Sub-Registrars wishing to exercise Magisterial or Judicial powers should also be required to pass the tests prescribed for the offices of Deputy Collector and District Munsif. Otherwise there will be no guarantee that they will discharge their extra duties efficiently. In every case in which Sub-Registrars are appointed Special Magistrates, it must be laid down as a distinct rule that they shall not perform the magisterial duties during the prescribed office hours, which must be devoted to the work of original registration. No concession should be made as regards examination and as regards a knowledge of the vernaculars even in the case of Mahomedans, domiciled Europeans, or Eurasians.

The Registration clerks should also be remunerated by fixed salaries according to the following scale in order that they may be entitled to the privileges of leave, acting allowance and pension rules:—

	Rs.
1st Class	30
2nd ,, ...	25
3rd ,, ...	20
4th ,, ...	17½
5th ,, ...	15

It must be noted here that these are the worst paid and most worked servants of the Public Service. Unlike other Departments, the work turned out by these men is preserved as a permanent record and is, in fact, the "be-all and the end-all" of the Department. Their position must be improved and thereby really competent men secured for the Department. Clerks of the 1st and 2nd grade should be eligible for promotion to Sub-Registrarships if they have passed the prescribed examinations. They should be given preference over the Probationary Sub-Registrars.

Note by M. R. Ry. A. PERYASWAMI MUDALIYAR, B.A., Registrar of Coimbatore, 5th Grade.

M. R. Ry. A. Peryaswami Mudaliyar, B.A.

As regards the Registration Department, the present practice of preferring graduates and under-graduates to others is good. The system of attaching a Probationer to each District should be extended by employing more than one Probationer for the more important Districts. At present there is no encouragement for persons employed in the Department, promotion being very slow. The Government should be moved to occasionally select from among the class of Registrars officers for the post of Deputy Collector. It is just and fair to grant this concession, as similar encouragement is shown to officers in the Police and Account Departments. Registrars who have completed the District Munsif's test may also be appointed as District Munsifs. As regards Sub-Registrars, they are all men of good education and intelligence. In the present state of the Department their prospects of promotion are really very poor. Sub-Registrars of seven years' standing, and of the requisite qualifications, may be selected for the posts of Sub-Magistrates and Táluka Shirastedárs.

The clerks in the Registration Department are more unfortunate in my opinion than those in any other Department. The best paid clerk in the District cannot hope to get more than Rs. 30, while the clerks on the commission system do not possess the benefit of the pension and leave rules although they work as faithfully and diligently as their brother clerks in other Departments. Unless something be done to improve the prospects of these clerks, I fear there will be great dissatisfaction among them.

Every year there is a large surplus to the credit of the Department, and although the Government of India have often declared that Registration is not meant to be a source of revenue to Government, yet the surplus receipts, instead of being expended for the benefit of the Department, become absorbed in the General Revenues.

Note by M. R. Ry. A. S. VENKATA RAO, B.A., Registrar of South Kánara, 5th Grade.

M. R. Ry. A. S. Venkata Rao, B.A.

I entered the Government service as an auditor in the Revenue Board Office, Madras, in 1871, have been 14 years in the Registration Department, and of this period have held the appointment of District Registrar for 8¼ years.

The Registration Department is now mainly, and I may say almost exclusively, manned by graduates and under-graduates. The policy from the outset (1865) has been to select candidates from that class. The success attained by the Department affords a good practical illustration of the principle that higher education constitutes the best guarantee for the moral and general efficiency of the service. The persons appointed as Probationers or at once as Sub-Registrars are required to undergo a probation and pass a satisfactory examination in the Departmental subjects before they are permitted to enter upon their duties. The system has, on the whole, worked well. Registrars of Districts are, as a rule, appointed from among the Sub-Registrars. Although the process of registration and the functions connected therewith are simple, matriculates and even some of the under-graduates employed have not turned out to be efficient Registering Officers. But of course it is clear that such exceptional instances of failure are inevitable. I think the selection should not go below the F. A. standard. Though the officers are, at first, attracted to the Department by reason of the comparatively good pay they get to start with, and by reason of the leisure the office affords, feelings of disgust and discontent gradually creep in among them, caused by the monotonous and mechanical nature of the work and by the block and slowness in promotion. To mend this state of things, I would propose in respect of the first point that efficient and duly qualified officers be, as an experiment, invested with powers to try (1) civil suits up to the value, say, of Rs. 100, and (2) criminal cases cognizable by Magistrates of the 3rd class, the suits and cases being trans-

Madras.
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Sec. IV.
M. R. Ry. A. S. Venkata Rao, B. A.

ferred to the Sub-Registrars from the files of the District Munsifs and Táluka or Sub-Magistrates. Some limit will have to be fixed as to the number of such cases to be enquired into by the officers every month, as otherwise they will be apt to neglect their legitimate work. This plan will, I think, not only afford relief to the over-worked officers of the Departments concerned and promote the interests of the public in the way of prompt and speedy disposal of their disputes, but also provide enough work, both in quantity and quality, for the young and capable Sub-Registrars, and will serve as a sort of training to fit them up for being selected to offices in the upper ranks of the service. In respect of the second point above referred to, relative to slowness in promotion, I would suggest that some sort of outlet be provided for Sub-Registrars and Registrars freely getting into the other Departments. Approved service for a certain number of years as Registrar or Sub-Registrar should be ruled to qualify for appointments in the executive or judicial service, and the authorities of those Departments may be authorized and required to extend every year a small portion of the patronage in their hands to the officers of the Registration Department. By this means the new-comers of the Registration Department will be actuated by a spirit of healthy emulation, their promotions will take place at reasonable intervals and the general efficiency and tone of all the Departments concerned will be added to. As the recruitment to the Department has gone on from among the University men, the Bráhman element *necessarily* preponderates, with a fair sprinkling of the other classes, with the exception, perhaps, of the Mahomedans, who here as elsewhere do not generally thrive and succeed as well as could be desired. In the case of Mahomedans and Eurasians want of a sufficient familiarity with the vernaculars is one serious drawback. Of late years, effect has been fairly given, as far as circumstances permitted, to the orders of the Government on the subject of the increased employment of this class of the Indian population in this branch of the service also. But it is greatly to be regretted that they are still slow to avail themselves of the educational advantages and of the benefits arising therefrom, and it is to be earnestly hoped that they will gradually come up to the front. I do not think that the Department is studiedly closed against any particular section of the people, although the rules and the standard of qualifications insisted on have, as a matter of course, created inequalities in the numbers composing the several classes; and I must add that the existence of the overpoise of the Bráhman factor has not been made an ill use of, nor have the other sections put forward any effective or reasonable grounds of complaint against the preponderance of the Bráhmans. They are obliged to accept the situation, because there has been no sort of unfairness. I think we have arrived at a stage at which the commission portion of the emoluments of the District Registrars may be done away with, and a revised fixed pay in lieu of the present double allowances may be introduced. The commission system may be retained for some time longer in the case of Sub-Registrars. The question of placing the clerical establishment of the Registration Department on fixed pay and of attaching one or two more clerks to the District Registrars' offices needs to be decided favorably at an early date, for the efficiency and good working of the Department depend on the favorable situation and contentment of this subordinate agency no less than on the intelligence, honesty and efficiency of the higher staff. It seems to me desirable and necessary that arrangements should be made for the Registration Offices being inspected twice in the year by the Registrars. The clerical staff consists mainly of grown-up men, too old to be able to change their career and seek employment elsewhere. A feeling of disgust and despondency is spreading among them, which is detrimental to the efficient working of the Department. I see no reason whatever why these subordinates should not be placed, in respect of salaries, &c., on the same footing as the servants of the other branches of the service. The present system of registration has already taken a firm stand among the permanent institutions of the country, and no fears need, I think, be entertained that it will ever collapse, deteriorate or fail to pay its charges. The only tax which is paid in an ungrudging spirit is the tax on transactions. It appears to me to be necessary also to materially revise the scale of pay and grades of the District Registrars, as also those of the Sub-Registrars. Considering the responsibility attaching to the post and the nature of the work done, District Officers should be graded, for pay, in the same way as Deputy Collectors are. The extreme paucity of appointments in the higher grades is, at present, a good ground for complaint and dissatisfaction. Now, lastly, as regards the comparative value of the services rendered by persons of the several classes of officers, the Head of the Department is, I think, the best judge of the question. Some of the Districts, especially the ceded Districts, are chronically backward in point of registrations and receipts. The system of the Sub-Registrars moving round their villages to accept documents for registration, like the system prevalent in Bombay and Bengal, may be tried tentatively here also. The existing staff of Sub-Registrars themselves may be constituted into a sort of peripatetic agency, which will entail no extra cost. The scheme may be matured after due deliberation and given a trial. I am also of opinion that some of the large Registration Districts such as Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore and Calicut should at an early date be split into two separate Registration Districts, presided over by special officers. Those charges are now too much for a single officer.

Note by M. R. Ry. V. SUNDARA RAMAIYA, B.A., Registrar, Kistna, 6th Grade.

M. R. Ry. V. Sundara Ramaiya, B. A.

On the first and most important question asked and answered by all the officers of the Uncovenanted Service regarding the merits and qualifications of Europeans and Natives there can be no two opinions so far as the Registration Department of the Madras Presidency is concerned. With the single exception of Colonel Macdonald who organized the Department, it has been fully

manned by Natives (whether statutory or pure) from the Inspector General to the last class Sub-Registrar for the past nearly 25 years; and the splendid results produced within this short period, especially within the last decade, are a living testimony to the intelligence, competency and uprightness of the staff of officers composing the Department.

M. R. Ry. V. Sundara Ramaiya, B. A.

We have no grievances as against foreigners, and the Department—thanks to the several Inspectors General and the Government—is singularly free from that feeling of irritation and discontent which naturally arise in those Departments in which there is a clashing of Native and foreign interests, and where people suffer from fancied or real wrongs.

If there is any grievance at all it is due to the block in the promotion of the Sub-Registrars. The block is due to natural causes which cannot be got over for some years to come. The majority of the officers are young men and vacancies seldom occur. But it has had one bad effect. A good number of the best Sub-Registrars are leaving the Department. Within the last 3 or 4 years four young men (three of whom are graduates) left it in this District, two for the Revenue line and two for the bar. There is every likelihood of another young man (a graduate again) also leaving for the Revenue branch of the service in a short time.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.
Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

Central Provinces. — Registration. — Section I.

The staff of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces consists of an Inspector General, who is also Commissioner of Excise and Superintendent of Stamps, and receives no salary from the Registration Department; an Inspector of Registration Offices on R200—250, 14 Registrars *ex-officio*; 38 Sub-Registrars *ex-officio*, and 21 Special Sub-Registrars.

The Inspector General is a member of the Covenanted Civil Service.

The appointment of Inspector of Registration offices is always conferred on an educated Native.

The senior Assistant Commissioner in the District of Nágpur, and, in other districts, the senior Extra Assistant Commissioner are *ex-officio* Registrars.

The Registrar of the Cantonment Magistrate's office at Kampti is *ex-officio* Sub-Registrar. The other Sub-Registrars, *ex-officio*, are Tahsildárs, or Náib Tahsildárs. Sub-Registrars *ex-officio* receive a commission of 5 annas for each deed registered.

The Special Sub-Registrars are divided into two classes; twelve are salaried, eleven receiving salaries of R30 and one a salary of R75 in addition to a commission of 5 annas for each deed registered. Of the salaried Sub-Registrars ten are Hindus, one is a Mahomedan, and one is a Parsi. The last-mentioned officer derives from registration an average monthly income of about R125. No other officer, except the Inspector, receives an income of R100 from the Department. Nine Special Sub-Registrars receive no salaries, but are paid a commission of 10 annas for each deed registered; three are Mahomedans and six are Hindus.

The Inspector General states that only Native gentlemen of means and respectability are appointed unsalaried Sub-Registrars; and that the salaried Sub-Registrars are selected from the ranks of the Moharars employed in the Registration offices.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Registration.

Section II.—Note by the Officiating Inspector General.

I have the honour to forward herewith :—

(1) A return of the staff of the Registration Department of these Provinces.

It will be observed that I have not set down the *salaries* of *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars. These are Tahsildárs, and they draw their pay, which varies according to grades as such, and not from the Registration Department. As Tahsildárs are frequently transferred, I have not made any entry in the "Nationality" column against them.

Tahsildárs, and special salaried Sub-Registrars, earn commission at 5 annas *per* registration. Special unsalaried Sub-Registrars earn 10 annas *per* registration.

Special salaried Sub-Registrars are selected from the ranks of the Moharars employed in the Registration offices. Only Native gentlemen of means and respectability are appointed to be unsalaried Sub-Registrars.

It will be seen that only one Sub-Registrar, the special salaried Sub-Registrar of Nágpur, earns ₹100 per mensem and upwards. Besides this man, the only other officer in the Department drawing such pay is the Inspector of Registration offices. For this post an educated Native is always selected.

Existing Organization and Constitution of the Registration Department, Central Provinces.

1	2	3	4						
			Number of Appointments in each class or grade now held by—						
			1	2	3	4 Natives of India.			
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments and of appointments not being purely clerical, of salaries of ₹100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and of other appointments mentioned in Column 2 amongst classes and grades, with rate of pay attached to each.	Europeans not domiciled in India.	Europeans domiciled in India.	Eurasians.	(a) Hindus.	(b) Muhammedans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
Registration.	* Inspector General of Registration.								
	Inspector of Registration Offices, ₹200—250	.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	† 14 Registrars *ex-officio*.								
	‡ 38 Sub-Registrars *ex-officio*.								
	1 Special Sub-Registrar, ₹75 and 5 annas for each deed registered up to ₹50; average earning ₹125.	.....	...	...	...	...	...	1 (a)	1 (a) A Pársi.
	§ 11 Special Sub-Registrars, ₹30 and 5 annas for each deed registered.								
	§ 9 Special Sub-Registrars, 10 annas for each deed registered.								

* Is also Commissioner of Excise and Superintendent of Stamps.
† Receive no salary or commission from the Department.
‡ Receive 5 annas out of the fees for each deed registered, but in no case do the fees average ₹100 per mensem.
§ In no case the average earnings amount to ₹100 a month.

ASSAM.
Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

Assam. — Registration. — Section I.

The office of Inspector General of Registration in the Province of Assam is held by the Inspector General of Police and Jails, who is also Superintendent of Stamps and Commissioner of Excise for half the Province. The office is at present held by a military officer graded as a Deputy Commissioner of the Assam Commission. Deputy Commissioners in charge of Districts are *ex-officio* Registrars, and Extra Assistant Commissioners are *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars of sub-divisions, receiving no remuneration from the Registration Department. There are seven Special Sub-Registrars whose duties are confined to registration. Of these, three receive salaries of ₹75 each, with commission on the same sliding scale as in Bengal. Their average emoluments are ₹184-5-11, ₹167-10-8 and ₹166-10-5 respectively. Two receive salaries of ₹50 each with a commission of 25 per cent. on the fees received, and two are remunerated only by a commission of 25 per cent. on the fees. The seven Special Sub-Registrars are all Hindus. Thirteen *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars receive commission at the rate of 25 per cent. on the receipts for their duties as registration officers. Except the three Special Sub-Registrars above mentioned, there are no officers in the Department whose emoluments for registration work exceed ₹100 a month. The Sub-Registrar of Shillong is *ex-officio* Inspector of Registration offices.

Special Sub-Registrars are nominated by the Inspector General and generally on the recommendation of District Officers. No qualifications are prescribed for candidates for these appointments.

The provisions of the Financial Codes relating to the Uncovenanted Service apply to such of the officers whose whole time is devoted to registration as are entitled to leave and pension.

The Inspector General states that there are no technical requirements for service in the Department, and that the same classes seek employment in it as are found in other Departments of the public service.

ASSAM.
Registration.

Section II.—Letter from the Chief Commissioner and Note by Inspector General.

In reply to your letter No. 150, dated the 17th March last, making certain enquiries regarding the Registration Department in Assam, I am directed to enclose a report by the Inspector General, No. 515, dated the 22nd April, giving the information required.

2. This Department is of importance only in one District of the Province, *viz.*, Sylhet, where alone special officers are entertained for the work. Elsewhere the duties of Registrar and Sub-Registrar are conjoined with those of some other office, and the Inspector General, the head of the Department, is himself a member of the Commission, who also performs the functions of Inspector General of Police and Jails, Superintendent of Stamps, and Commissioner of Excise for half the Province. The Chief Commissioner has no changes in the constitution of the Department to suggest.

No. 515, dated Shillong, the 22nd April 1887.

From—H. C. WILLIAMS, Esq., C.S., Inspector General of Registration, Assam,

To—The SECRETARY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER of Assam.

With reference to your letter No. 1500, dated the 23rd ultimo, requesting me to furnish full and detailed particulars with regard to the Registration Department in Assam, for the use of the Public Service Commission, I have the honour to submit the following particulars under each of the four heads named by the Commission :—

(1) Besides the Deputy Commissioners and Extra Assistant Commissioners at head-quarters and sub-divisions, who are *ex-officio* Registrars and Sub-Registrars, there are only 7 gazetted appointments in the Registration Department in this Province, namely, those of special Sub-Registrars. As regards them, there are no fixed principles guiding the first appointments; but they are filled up by nomination, the nominees being, as a rule, recommended by the District Officers. The clerks and subordinate officers are appointed by the District Registrars.

(2) The conditions of service in the Department in regard to pension and furlough are those laid down in Sections 104, 106, 110 and 111 of the Civil Pension Code and Section 132 of the Civil Leave Code respectively.

The rates of pay of the Special Sub-Registrars are set forth in column 3 of the statement appended to this report. As regards the pay of the clerks belonging to the Department, that, as a rule, is rather below that given to clerks in the District offices; but as in most offices the work is very light, I consider it to be quite sufficient.

(3) There are no technical requirements of the Department.

(4) The same classes of the community that are employed in most other Government appointments.

I do not think any further changes are required in the constitution of the Department for the present, though, if the work in the Surma Valley continues to increase at the same ratio that it has lately, an increase to the establishment will again be required in the course of a few years.

I beg to forward herewith a statement showing the existing organization and constitution of the Registration Department.

The letter from the Secretary to the Public Service Commission, No. 150, dated the 17th March 1887, is herewith returned.

Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments or of appointments not being purely clerical of salaries of ₹100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and the other appointments amongst classes and grades with rate of pay attached to each.	Number of appointments in each class or grade now held by (a) Hindus.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
Registration.	Three gazetted appointments.	Pay ₹75 per month each with commission as per Bengal sliding scale :— ₹ a. p. 1 Average pay and commission . 184 5 11 1 Do. do. . 166 10 8 1 Do. do. . 167 10 5	All these appointments are held by Hindus.	

There are also two Special Sub-Registrars who receive salaries of ₹50 each with a commission of 25 per cent. on the fees received and two who are remunerated only by a commission of 25 per cent. on receipts. There are thirteen *ex-officio* Sub-Registrars who receive the same commission for their duties in connection with registration.

BERAR.
Registration.

Section I.—Note by the Sub-Committee.

Berar. — Registration. — Section I.

The Inspector General of Registration for Berar is also Inspector General of Stamps, Jails and Police, and derives no portion of his salary from the Registration Department.

There are six District Registrars *ex-officio*, of whom two are Assistant Commissioners and four are Extra Assistant Commissioners. These officers receive no remuneration for their services.

The Inspector of Registration offices receives a salary of ₹120 rising to ₹150. Eight Sub-Registrars, *ex-officio*, Honorary Magistrates and Tahsildárs, receive commission at the rate of 20 per cent. on receipts. Twenty-eight Special Sub-Registrars receive salaries varying from ₹30 to ₹80; fifteen Rural Sub-Registrars are paid by commission at the rate of 55 per cent. on receipts up to ₹200.

The Inspector of Registration offices, the Special Sub-Registrars, and the Rural Sub-Registrars are, it is believed, all Hindus.

For appointment to the salaried grades it is required that the candidates should have passed at least the sixth standard of the Educational Department. Preference is given to the sons of men of respectable family in the Province or of deserving Government servants. Rural Sub-Registrars have been almost invariably chosen from among the respectable inhabitants of the locality where the office is established.

The Inspector General reports that the classes who seek employment in the Registration Department are the same as those that take service in Civil and Revenue offices, *viz.*, Brahmans and Parbhus; that, at present, they nearly monopolize the salaried appointments of the Department; and that clerical employment being their hereditary occupation, they make the most efficient Registering officers in Berar.

The Inspector General of Registration in Berar supervises the Registration offices at Secunderabad, where the Cantonment Magistrate is *ex-officio* Registrar and the Sub-Registrar is a Mahomedan on a salary of ₹50.

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BERAR.

Registration.

Section II.—Note by the Inspector General.

Particulars regarding the Registration Department of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, required by the Public Service Commission :—

(1). *The present regulations of the Department as to admission to the various grades and ranks of which it is composed, and to promotion therein; or if no such regulations exist, a statement of the principles by which the Department or other authority invested with the duty is guided in making first appointments to, or promotion in, the Department.*

The Inspector General of Registration offices, and Sub-Registrars, are appointed by the Local Administration, as required by the Indian Registration Act, their appointments being gazetted. Moharars are appointed by the Inspector General of Registration. The qualifications required for admission to the salaried grades of the Department are those required in the Government Department in the Province, *viz.* that the canndidate has passed by the sixth standard of the Educational Department. The principles by which the Inspector General of Registration is guided in making first appointments to, or promotion in, the Department are :—

First appointments.—In filling up vacancies by first appointment in the salaried establishment preference is given to sons of deserving Government servants and to sons of men of respectable family in the Province, always provided they have the necessary educational qualifications. Rural Sub-Registrars remunerated by commission have been almost invariably chosen from among the respectable inhabitants of the locality where the office is established.

Promotions.—Promotions in the Department are made according to seniority, this rule being departed from only in the case of proved misconduct or inefficiency.

(2). *The conditions of service in the Department in regard to pay, pension and furlough.*

These are governed by the Financial Codes.

(3). *The technical requirements of the Department and the professional attainments essential for efficient service in its various branches.*

The Inspector of Registration offices requires to have a thorough knowledge of Stamp and Registration Law, and some acquaintance with Civil Procedure. The Sub-Registrars require the same qualifications. These and a clear hand-writing are the chief requirements in officers of the Registration Department.

(4). *The chief classes who seek employment in the Registration Department* are just those who seek employment in Civil and Revenue offices, *viz.* the Bráhmans and Parbhus. At present they nearly monopolize the salaried appointments of the Department, and, employment of a clerical kind being their hereditary occupation, they make the most efficient officers in Berar.

(5). *The existing organisation.*

I attach a statement in the form required to give this information :—

Existing Organization and Constitution of the Registration Department, Berar.

1	2	3	4						
			Number of appointments in each class or grade now held by—						
Department.	Total number of gazetted appointments and of appointments not being purely clerical of salaries of Rs. 100 and upwards.	Distribution of the gazetted appointments and of other appointments mentioned in column 2 amongst classes and grades with rate of pay attached to each.	1 Europeans not domiciled in India.	2 Europeans domiciled in India.	3 Eurasians.	4 Natives of India.			
						(a) Hindus.	(b) Muhammadans.	(c) Others.	(d) Total.
Registration.		*Inspector General of Registration. †6 District Registrars *ex-officio*. Inspector of Registration offices, Rs. 120-150. † Sub-Registrars, *ex-officio* ... 8 Sub-Registrars, *ex-officio*, commission at the rate of 20 per cent. on receipts. 28 Special Sub-Registrars, Rs. 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 and 80. 15 Rural Sub-Registrars by commission at the rate of 55 per cent. on receipts up to Rs. 200.	...	...	...	1 15	...	...	1 15

* Is also Inspector General of Stamps, Jails and Police, and receives no portion of his salary from the Registration Department.
† Receive no remuneration from the Department.

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